

Hafa Adai!

RB supports proposal to allow voting at any polling station. **PAGE 2**

M2 Fitness Zumba group marks 4th anniversary. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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Youth Congress passes language bill

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The 19th CNMI Youth Congress members pose for a photo after their recent session. From left, Sen. Aden Chonne H. Calvo (Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr.-Sr. High School), Sen. Ayden Sean C. Yumul (Grace Christian Academy), Sen. Mickyiel Josh B. Cabrera (Saipan Southern High School), Speaker Vinnie Juan Q. Sablan (Kagman High School), floor leader Maili Ilareyo'l B. Peter (Mount Carmel School), vice speaker Peaches Fiona Bayot (Marianas High School), Sen. Soledad "Somie" Sablan (Saipan International School), and Sen. Ysabella V. Palacios (Saipan Southern High School).

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**

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REPORTER

The CNMI Youth Congress has passed a bill that requires the instruction of the Chamorro and/or Carolinian language at each school level.

See **YOUTH** on Page 4

Medical referral program allocated \$380K funding

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The suspension of the Health Network Program's subsistence benefits was short lived with the CNMI government working in tandem to appropriate \$380,000 to continue to provide



Palacios



Muña

these essential benefits to patients and escorts who are sent off-island for medical treatment.

In a press release from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday, they announced that subsistence benefits will continue

for beneficiaries of HNP (formerly known as the Medical Referral Program).

This is thanks to allocations from Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and the Saipan and Northern

See **MEDICAL** on Page 4

Int'l Association of Fire Fighters adopts resolution to include CNMI in constitution

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The International Association

of Fire Fighters adopted last week a resolution to amend its constitution and bylaws to include the CNMI in District 10

and Trustee Region 3 officially recognizing the CNMI's Northern Marianas Professional Firefighters Union as

part of the IAFF.

Last Aug. 28, IAFF delegates adopted nearly 40 resolutions during the opening day of its 57th Convention in Boston, Massachusetts

One of the resolutions

See **FIRE** on Page 4

2024 Konfitma Training underway



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Department of Public Safety personnel involved in the 2024 Konfitma Training respond to a simulated school shooting yesterday in Kagman.

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
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CORRESPONDENT

To better prepare CNMI frontliners to defend, protect, and rescue community members should situations like active shootings, mass care, and

biochemical cleanups occur, an estimated 100 uniformed personnel yesterday took part in the kickoff of the 2024 Konfitma Training.

Day 1 in the two-day training shot off with sirens and a

See **KONFITMA** on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Guam Regional Medical City is recognized as one of the island's best companies to work for, as highlighted by the Guam Business Magazine "Best Companies to Work For" island-wide survey.

PAGE 9



WORLD

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday pushed back against a new wave of pressure to reach a cease-fire deal in Gaza after hundreds of thousands of Israelis protested and went on strike.

PAGE 10



LIFE & STYLE

James Darren, a teen idol who helped ignite the 1960s surfing craze as a charismatic beach boy paired off with Sandra Dee in the hit film "Gidget," died Monday at 88.

PAGE 11



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Location:
CWA Office on Capitol Hill
#CNMISTEP



Local

RB supports proposal to allow voting at any polling station

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Blas Camacho released a statement yesterday to express his support for Senate Bill 23-68, which proposed "to allow voting at any polling place on election day."

According to Camacho, Senate Bill 23-68's initiative aims to enhance voters' accessibility and convenience, potentially increasing voter turnout and participation in the democratic process.

"The intent of the bill is commendable, particularly in addressing the needs of our ill residents on Tinian and Rota who may be receiving treatment on Saipan, military members, and other citizens who face challenges in accessing their designated precincts on election day."

Camacho added that the Commonwealth Election Commission is fully equipped to identify individuals who have already voted in real-time, regardless of the polling place. This capability would streamline the voting process and reduce barriers preventing eligible voters from casting their ballots.



Camacho

The mayor questions CEC's capacity to effectively monitor and communicate real-time voting activity across multiple polling locations.

"However, there are valid concerns that must be addressed, such as ensuring the integrity and security of the voting process. For instance, as mentioned, if an individual votes at one precinct there must be a reliable mechanism to prevent them from voting again at another precinct on the same day."

The mayor said that robust communication channels and technology infrastructure would be essential to ensure accurate and timely updates across all polling places.

"For instance, if an individual casts their vote at Precinct 1, it is crucial that precincts 2,3,4,5,6, and 7 are promptly notified to prevent duplicate voting."

Camacho concluded his statement by saying that Senate Bill 23-68 presents an opportunity to modernize the CNMI's electoral process and improve voter access. He then said CEC must address logistical challenges and implement safeguards to maintain the integrity of elections.

Senate Bill No. 23-68 was filed by Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota). *Saipan Tribune* last Sept. 27 reported that CEC board requested the Senate to hold off on enacting the law due to the close proximity of the upcoming general elections on Nov. 5.

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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M2 Fitness Zumba group marks 4th anniversary

By **RACQUEL H. FLOYD**
 raxfloyd@gmail.com
 CORRESPONDENT

M2 Fitness Zumba celebrated its 4th anniversary last Saturday at the Royal Taga Ballroom of Saipan World Resort.

The event was graced by visiting M2 founder and coach Mary Grace Bautista and exclusively held for members. In all, about 100 members from Saipan and Guam and their families attended the celebration of M2 Fitness' anniversary, including Aqua Resort Club general manager Sachiko Gerald.

It was seven months ago when Bautista relocated to Guam and she was overjoyed to see members and coaches Mita Pelicano and Julie Harrison.

"The moment the plane landed, it felt like coming home. They've all become exactly the people I have always prayed for. I have asked for God's guidance everyday to keep them on the right path in their fitness journey," she said.

M2 Fitness was officially formed by Bautista and Pelicano on Aug. 20, 2020, and started with a core group of eight members, that soon expanded to 20, and rapidly grew to 200 members during the pandemic.

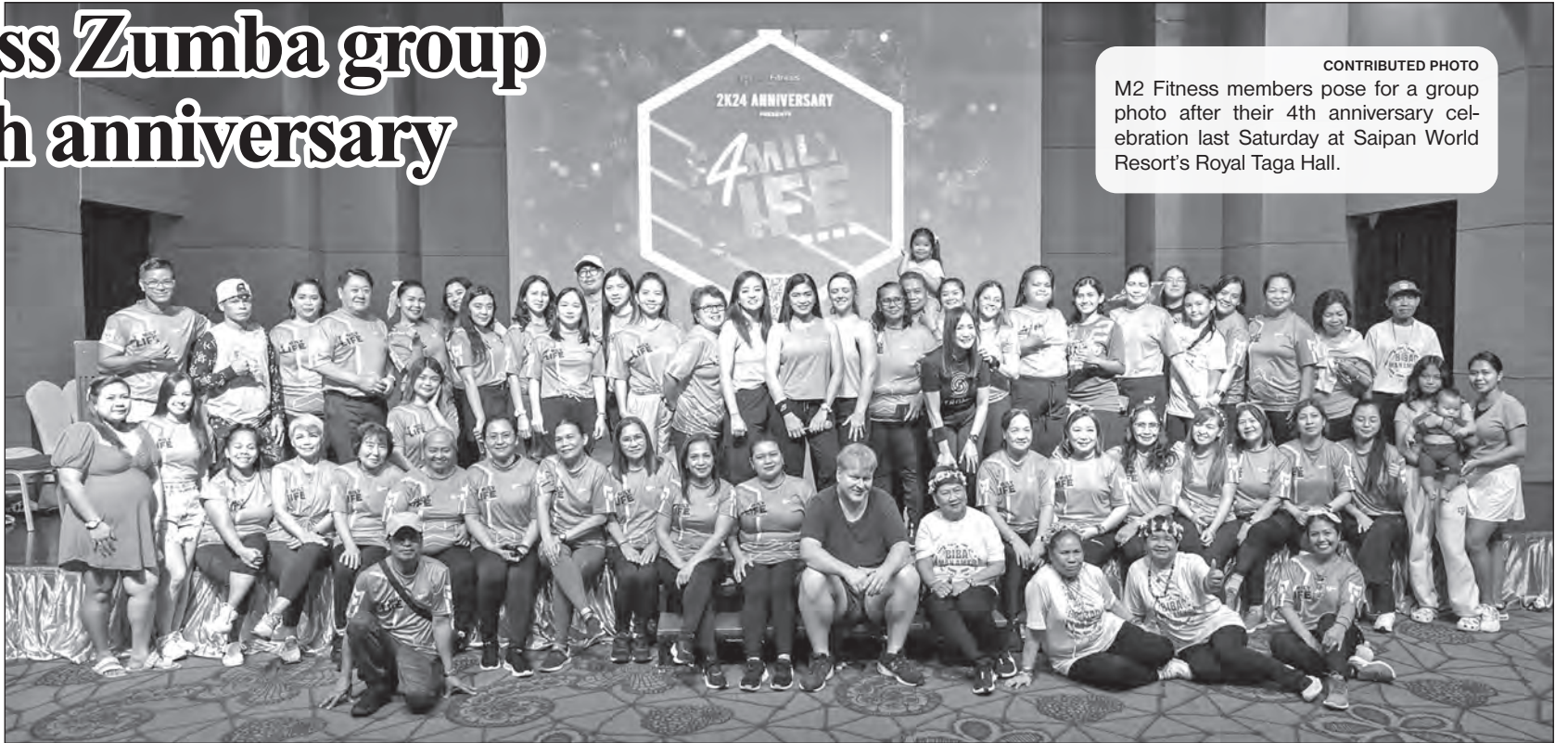
According to Bautista though their membership has significantly increased, after the COVID-19 pandemic their members decreased.

"After the pandemic, as travel resumed and some members moved off-island, the numbers did decrease. Additionally, new fitness groups have emerged on the island, offering a variety of options, from lower-intensity workouts to dance-focused routines. Some of the former members even started their own groups, offering similar styles to M2 Fitness."

She added that she is grateful for the other Zumba groups formed because M2 Fitness cannot serve the entire island alone and it provides more options for people to keep themselves active and healthy.

This year's celebration they chose pink as their theme color to celebrate their blessings and the support they have received, and Bautista said that the color symbolizes happiness, health, and strength. She added that it reflects their commitment to staying strong and healthy while celebrating the four years of being a positive force on their members' fitness journeys.

One of the challenges of the group includes sustaining expenses since they are a non-profit independent group.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
 M2 Fitness members pose for a group photo after their 4th anniversary celebration last Saturday at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

M2 is a licensed organization with monthly and annual fees that needs to be covered, including various licenses of their coaches.

Securing a location for the classes was difficult after closing down their studio due to lack of funds, added Bautista. Despite the obstacles, she

thanked the following resorts/hotels, where they can hold classes—Aqua Resort for their Aqua Fitness, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan for Zumba and Strong classes, and Gold Beach Hotel for Zumba, Toning, Circle Mobility, and Strong.

Bautista's move to Guam has allowed her to expand M2

Fitness as she partnered with CrossFit Latte Stone, which boosted their expansion efforts.

"The introduction of M2 Aqua Fitness in Guam has received positive feedback from both the local and tourism communities, contributing to rapid growth. Based on the feedback and our regular attendance monitoring, our class has achieved the highest number of attendees for Aqua Fitness on the island (Guam) so far. Additionally, we hold regular Saturday classes at Yigo Gym, where we offer Dance

Fitness and Toning sessions. This expansion has allowed us to reach more people and continue our mission of promoting fitness and well-being in new communities," said Bautista.

Bautista expressed her gratitude to members during the anniversary.

"Despite the distance, wherever I may be, M2 Fitness will always remain in my heart, mind, and soul. You are my sanctuary for peace, love, and the true meaning of loyalty, belief, and support. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey, and let's continue to achieve great things together."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
 M2 coaches, kneeling from left Mita Pelicano, Mary Grace Bautista, Julie Harrison, and Irene Dela Paz with their man'amko members.



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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
 CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
 DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter } FCD CIVIL
 } ACTION NO.
 of the Petition } 24-0313
 To Correct: }
 } NOTICE OF
 } HEARING
 Jintao Liu }
 Petitioner(s) }

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 22nd day of July, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
 Clerk of Court

By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the **Financial Affairs Committee** will hold a **Special Committee Meeting on Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the CPA Meeting Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI. The following agenda will be considered, and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- V. SPECIAL MEETING ITEMS
 - A. FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
 1. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Proposal
 2. Finance Report
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VII. MISCELLANEOUS / ANNOUNCEMENTS
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/
 DOLORES P. KIYOSHI
 Chairwoman, Financial Affairs Committee

*All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.
 A time limit may be imposed. Video conferencing is also available via Zoom.
 Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 • Passcode: 573227

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Pacifica Insurance launches 11th Annual Pacifica Art Contest

Rolling out the red carpet for local artists, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. has launched its 11th Annual Pacifica Art Contest with the theme “Rest Assured, it’s Christmas” to help usher in the holiday season. Art entries this year will be among the thousands of other entries since PAC was first established back in 2014.

PAC will maintain two con-

test categories—traditional and digital.

The traditional category will be open to those ages 6-17 years and will be categorized into two groups—category one for ages 6-11 years and category two for ages 12-17 years. The acceptable mediums for the traditional category include pen, paint, charcoal, oil pas-

tel, crayons, and color pencil. Traditional entries cannot exceed 24” X 36.”

Art pieces must be delivered to PIUI’s office located at the Joeten Center in Susupe.

The digital category allows artists to submit their artwork digitally. The artwork can be in the form of a two-dimensional (2D) graphic design, digital photograph or a 30 second video. These can be submitted via email at artcontest@pacificains.com or through our online submission form at pacificains.com/artcontest.

ains.com/artcontest.

Up for grabs for all winners include a cash prize of \$200 accompanied by a gift set.

In its 11th year and with over 3,000 art entries, PAC has fast become the most anticipated art contest in the CNMI for artists of all ages to demonstrate and showcase their many talents and to help signal the start of the holiday season. (PR)

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com



PIUI
The artwork of Grace Christian Academy 6th grade student En Mei Victoria Huang was the traditional one category winner in last year’s edition of the Pacifica Art Contest.

YOUTH

From page 1

Last Aug. 17, during their ninth regular session, the 19th CNMI Youth Congress unanimously passed Youth Congress Bill 19-01 requiring the instruction of the Chamorro and/or Carolinian language at each school level.

The bill now heads to both houses of the Legislature where it awaits the next step in what the Youth Congress hopes will be its eventual passage into law.

The newly passed youth legislation also carries with it support from the Public School System and both the Indigenous and Carolinian Affairs offices during the latter’s process of inquiry with each agency.

Youth Congress Bill 19-01, YCD 1, authored by Sen. Ayden Sean C. Yumul (Grace Christian Academy) was passed after amendments were made to the original bill which was introduced over a year ago and referred to the Education Committee.

YCB 19-01 was first introduced in the 18th Youth Congress by former speaker

Cielo G. Long of Tinian and was passed by the senators, but unfortunately the bill was not acted on by the previous Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

In a statement prior to the passage of the bill, Yumul said the CNMI’s youth leaders are committed to the continuance of providing access to cultural education.

“A little less than 50 years ago, our founding fathers recognized the importance of keeping our languages and cultures alive as Indigenous peoples through education and exposure of our cultural traditions. Today, we, the youth leaders, stand committed to provide access to cultural education throughout the whole pipeline. I humbly ask for your support to pass this bill, which will significantly impact the youth by providing education of indigenous language and cultures. Because it promotes pride in our heritage, (and) fosters a strong sense of identity and empowerment” he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

KONFITMA

From page 1

blur of vehicles as frontliners raced to Kagman High School during an active school shooting and hostage simulation.

Participating in the training were the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, CNMI Public School System, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Customs and Biossecurity, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality along with with Guam National Guard 94th WMD-

CST and Wisconsin National Guard 54TH WMD-CST.

CNMI HSEM spokesperson Bernard Villagomez said the drills for Day 1 of the 2024 Konfitma Training were successful.

“The scenarios went well. The active shooter scenario at Kagman High School was a success. The objectives for the drill were good. We were testing the readiness and response of the school staff and the students during an active shooter scenario and that went well. PSS was also testing the Emergency Operations Plan, their EOP, to test the effectiveness of the plan, and also the coordination and communication between all the multi-jurisdiction and partnering agen-

cies that were to respond to an active shooter scenario at Kagman High School and PSS as a whole.” he said

Villagomez said KHS students were also a part of the lockdown situation.

“We had a standard operating procedure for the school. We also had a designated hostage, which was a part of the plan, and the active shooter, which was also part of the scenario. The second objective for the exercise was the hostage situation and active shooter situation at the juvenile detention center in Kagman. So, the active shooter from the school fled to the former Kagman Juvenile Detention Center and that’s where DPS and SWAT team responded to the

incident. And then, we transported some of the patients from the juvenile detention center over to CHC, where they conducted mass care and decontamination.”

Villagomez went on to emphasize the significance of these kinds of training.

“We don’t want a real-world situation like this to happen, but it’s best that we practice and we exercise these drills so we’re prepared if it does happen,” he shared. “If it does happen in the future, we’re more prepared to handle the situation and save lives and protect the CNMI community as a whole.”

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

MEDICAL

From page 1

Islands Legislative Delegation totaling \$380,000.

“The Health Network Program continues subsistence benefits for its beneficiaries, thanks to the recent allocation of necessary funds from the Office of the Governor and the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. This development follows productive discussions between Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther L. Muña and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios,” said CHCC.

According to CHCC, Palacios confirmed the transfer of

\$80,000 to support the HNP, while SNILD unanimously voted to pass House Local Bill 23-62 that approves an additional appropriation of \$300,000 to HNP during a regular session yesterday.

Aside from funding HNP, HLB 23-62 appropriated funds to other government programs totaling \$2.5 million.

“These funds will enable the program to continue providing critical assistance to its beneficiaries,” said CHCC.

During their recent meeting, Muña and Palacios also discussed long-term strategies to ensure the sustainability of the HNP.

“Both leaders expressed op-

timism about these solutions and reaffirmed their commitment to working together to promote the health and well-being of the CNMI community,” said CHCC.

In addition to HNP, HLB 23-62 appropriated \$1.65 million to Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance provided that \$250,000 is reserved for SHEFA personnel and operations.

In addition, HLB 23-62 has appropriated \$850,000 that will be split between the Saipan Mayor’s Office, the Northern Islands Mayor’s Office, the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, the Saipan Zoning Office, the

Center for Living Independently, Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organization, Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, payment for arrears to Hawaiian Rock Products, Northern Marianas Islands Basketball Federation, Marianas Racing Association, the 38th anniversary for the 13 Fisherman Monument, FSM Independence Day Celebration, and Cultural Heritage Month.

The appropriation of \$60,000 for Cultural Heritage Month will be split between the Indigenous Affairs Office and the Carolinian Affairs Office.

FIRE

From page 1

adopted was to amend its constitution and bylaws to include the CNMI in District 10 and Trustee Region 3 officially recognizing the CNMI’s Northern Marianas Professional Firefighters Union as part of the IAFF.

In a statement from the Commonwealth Ports Authority Airport Rescue and Firefighting members under the Northern Marianas Professional Firefighters Union International Association of Fire

Fighters-Local 5335, they’d like to thank the IAFF for formally including the CNMI in its Constitution and By-Laws.

The group expressed that this resolution will lead to the establishment of collective bargaining agreement for CPA-ARFF.

“A CBA will ultimately materialize a very professional, well disciplined, highly qualified, and fully equipped firefighting workforce that’ll provide for a safe and healthy working environment that leads to a better quality of life for its employees,” said the group.

The group thanked CPA ex-

ecutive director Leo B. Tudela for showing “great character, true leadership, and utmost professionalism at the highest level” by officially agreeing to mutually meet with NMPFU this month to discuss a CBA.

The group would also like to thank CPA-ARFF Fire chief Fred A. Pangelinan for supporting members and their cause to discuss a wide range of critical and important areas that pertains to and affects labor and employee relations issues involving firefighters who are collective bargaining unit members who will be covered under this agreement.

“This is truly a huge step in the right direction. It’s been at least three years since the NMPFU IAFF-Local 5335 have been established since April 2021. The global COVID-19 pandemic had slowed down progress toward the goal of establishing CBAs between DFEMS and CPA-ARFF and in September 2023 NMPFU made great strides in communicating with both agencies to initiate the CBA process. CPA-ARFF has shown its willingness to commit for the overall betterment of its employees while DFEMS refuses to act,” said the group.



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Inquiries regarding this bid shall be submitted to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net or facsimile at (670)234-9021, on or before September 10, 2024, no later than 10 a.m.

/s/ ZENIE P. MAFNAS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED “MARCIE” M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

Making a difference in Guam and CNMI

Via a partnership among the National Park Service, AmeriCorps, and the Kupu ʻĀina Corps, a conservation non-profit in Hawaii, five young adult residents of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands are working on wildfire recovery and climate change-related

Camp Blaz brings local marines, sailors home



USMC
Marines and sailors from Guam and the CNMI pose with Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz leadership on MCB Camp Blaz, Aug. 22, 2024. Several Marines and sailors originally born and raised on the islands of Guam and the CNMI have returned to the Marianas and are an integral part of laying the foundation for MCB Camp Blaz.

By LANCE CPL. RYAN LITTLE
Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP BLAZ, Guam—Several marines and sailors originally born and raised on the islands of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have returned to the Marianas and are an integral part of laying the foundation for Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz. From the communication and administrative sections, to logistics, these Marines and Sailors are serving at every level of the installation, employing their unique talents and trades to support installation functions and future force flow.

Sgt. Daniel Ascura, a network administrator with Camp Blaz, was born and raised on Guam in the village of Santa Rita and has taken great pride in being able to serve not only his country, but his home as well.

“[Being home] means everything,” said Ascura. “The transformation everybody talks about after Recruit Training is something families on island don’t get to see too often, so I am happy to come out and help the vision come true.”

The Marines’ motto is *Semper Fidelis* ‘always faithful’ and they are always faithful to their community, whether it be a different state, a different territory, or a different country, and being able to serve in their home brings a higher level of pride.

Hospital Corpsman First Class Roy Chan, a corpsman with MCB Camp Blaz, was raised in Dededo, Guam. Chan spent his entire tour of duty in the Navy overseas, but with so much time away from Guam, coming back home to serve was special.

“This has been a great opportunity for me to directly show to my friends and family

how serving has and is impacting my life,” said Chan. “They can see how I conduct myself at social events and the different activities I’m involved with, like being more physically active and getting more involved with volunteering. I also enjoy sharing my knowledge and experience of the island with the people I work with by talking about the food, culture, and different activities around the island.”

With so many opportunities to serve in Guam, local Camp Blaz servicemembers take pride in teaching their culture to the marines, sailors, and their families who are experiencing Guam for the first time.

Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Reyes, a data systems chief, was born and raised on Saipan and he jumped on the opportunity to

work at Camp Blaz. “Ultimately, it was about getting closer to home,” said Reyes. “I was super excited. I have four kids of my own, and at this point in my life it’s about giving back.”

“Come out and join us,” said Chan. “Work will always be challenging, but with the development of the different military branches on the island, this is a once in a lifetime experience to be a part of this build up. The island itself is an experience.”

With such a long and rich history, the CHamoru, Carolinian, and Guamanian locals take a great pride in their heritage and island homes, and these Camp Blaz Marines and Sailors have had the unique opportunity to return to the region and serve.

resilience projects in parks in those two U.S. territories.

Those five Pacific Islands Conservation Corps interns help remove fire-prone invasive plant species and restore lands with fire-resistant native species. And they perform other duties that beautify and fortify park lands and waters, too. Simultaneously, the interns, whose terms last one year, receive career development training, career guidance, and hands-on experience.

“The difference it’s making for these program participants to be able to help their families while they are also developing themselves is significant,” said Ernestine White, the NPS lead for the program. “Not only are we helping the [natural and cultural] resources there, but we’re also helping the community.”

The Pacific Islands Conservation Corps is one of five



NPS

Pacific Islands Conservation Corps intern Isaiah Joel Torre collects mangrove propagules (seedlings) at American Memorial Park in the Northern Mariana Islands.

youth and young adult programs supported by the Inflation Reduction Act that help fortify NPS sites in the face of a changing climate. The other



NPS

Isaiah Joel Torre cleans up a beach at American Memorial Park in the Northern Mariana Islands.

four are the Community Volunteer Ambassador Climate Cohort, Scientists in Parks, the YMCA Partnership, and the Landscape Stewardship Corps. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-24-025

S-11 & S-12 SEWER LIFT STATION RELOCATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the S-11 & S-12 Sewer Lift Station Relocation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the relocation of the existing S-11 & S-12 sewer lift station; relocation of wet well; relocation of valve and flow meter stations; installation of new pumps and accessories; and renovation of the existing generator building. The work shall be done in accordance with the project plans and specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in three hundred sixty-five (365) calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 9, 2024 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-24-025, S-11 & S-12 Sewer Lift Station Relocation**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 1, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided bid forms. Bidders are required to complete all bid forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A bid guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (CHST) on September 10, 2024 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer, at email alley.reyes@cucgov.org, and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Technician Senior via email, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery
(CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-022	CDBG-DR Construction Inspector (1-Position)	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$28,875.00 Per Annum	September 4, 2024	September 19, 2024 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **Zenie P. Mafnas**
Corporate Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Illinois bans corporal punishment in private schools. About time

For Chicagoans of a certain vintage who attended Catholic schools in the distant past, this new law might sound like heresy: Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker earlier this month signed a ban on corporal punishment in private schools. At the same time, the state reiterated a 30-year ban on the practice in public schools.

Anyone who grew up getting their knuckles rapped for school infractions can't be blamed for thinking the nanny-state Democrats have done it again. Classrooms will turn into unruly free-for-alls, the thinking goes, and virtues like respect and discipline will go out the window.

Well, it might surprise those same old-fashioned disciplinarians to learn that Illinois' private schools were on board with the law. Schools in the Catholic Conference of Illinois no longer use corporal punishment, Executive Director Bob Gilligan said, telling The Associated Press, "It's an anachronistic practice."

Ralph Rivera, who represents the Illinois Coalition of Non-public Schools, said he's similarly unaware of any member school that hits its students. While his group usually opposes state meddling in its classrooms, Rivera told the AP, its schools made no objection to the law. "Even if they don't do it, they told us to stay out of it, because it doesn't look good when you say, 'No, we want to be able to spank children.'"

Across the U.S., at least 96% of public schools report not using corporal punishment. The World Health Organization has decreed the practice a violation of children's rights, and the United Nations prohibited it more than three decades ago.

So, whatever happened to that stereotypical nun who ran her classroom with an iron ruler? In short, educators wised up. The evidence shows that hitting kids in school doesn't work. In the long run, it leads to worse behavior, and can leave children traumatized. It's also unfairly administered, with Black males and students with disabilities disproportionately targeted.

There really is no excuse for it, and plenty of reasons why teachers — and parents — have no business paddling, spanking or hitting the children in their care. You don't have to take our word for it: The American Academy of Pediatrics in suburban Itasca has been crying out to end corporal punishment of children for years now.

In research published last year, the physicians' group renewed its call. The group cited a series of studies that indicate spanking by parents or primary caregivers does not achieve better behavior. A 2017 study among parents from different countries and cultures confirms that hitting kids can bring on multiple problems.

"In the short-term, corporal punishment may cause a child or adolescent to be fearful and immediately obedient," the research report said. Over the long term, however, hitting kids not only fails to improve behavior, but can lead to mental-health problems, impaired cognitive development, poor educational outcomes and increased aggression. Further, being spanked as a child can contribute to antisocial behavior and other problems in adulthood as well.

While the evidence is strong, not everyone wants to believe it. After all, most people who were mildly spanked as children, either by teachers or parents, didn't grow up with terrible problems as a result.

In parts of the Southern U.S., being paddled at school remains a rite of passage. Even though a dwindling number of

See ILLINOIS on Page 7



New Trump charges expose the Supreme Court's failings

Jack Smith is calling the Supreme Court's bluff.

In the wake of the court's controversial decision earlier this summer granting Donald Trump criminal immunity for official acts committed while president, Smith has refiled his indictment charging Trump with offenses connected to Jan. 6. This time, he has left out conduct the justices identified as clearly official while leaving in conduct where the justices said there were still complicated issues to be resolved.

No trial will take place before the election. But if Kamala Harris becomes president and the federal district court allows the remaining charges to proceed, Trump could still find himself facing trial for trying to subvert the outcome of the 2020 election. Then the case would wend its way back to the Supreme Court, which would be forced to confront the consequences of its immunity decision.

In a sense, Smith's decision to refile charges goes all the way back to April, when the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the immunity case. Then, Justice Amy Coney Barrett walked Trump's lawyer through a series of elements of the criminal allegations, getting him to admit that each involved private conduct, not official presidential acts. As I noted at the time, Barrett was trying to create a roadmap for Smith to keep the prosecution alive even if the court issued a sweeping judgment requiring immunity for official acts, as indeed it did.

Concessions at oral argument don't have the force of law in subsequent criminal proceedings, especially given that those concessions happened before the Supreme Court laid out its new (and extreme) legal standards for presidential immunity.

But Barrett's efforts at oral argument at least sent Smith the message that he had the option of keeping the criminal case alive. For him not to have refiled charges would have seemed like throwing in the towel—not a good look for any federal prosecutor, and especially not for someone as tenacious by reputation as Smith.

The main shift in the new indictment is to categorize Trump as having acted criminally in his private capacity as a candidate for office in 2020, not as a sitting president. The shift follows the Supreme Court's logic in immunizing Trump for official acts. And the new characterization is plausible, given that Trump was indeed trying as a citizen, not as president, to be reelected.

What is lost in the transition to the new formulation is the reality that Trump also tried to use his powers as sitting president to advance his private interests—a key part of the original indictment. Gone are the allegations of Trump conspiring with Department of Justice officials to get legitimate election

By **NOAH FELDMAN**

Bloomberg Opinion

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A professor of law at Harvard University, he is author, most recently, of "To Be a Jew Today: A New Guide to God, Israel, and the Jewish People."



results thrown out.

Removing the allegations that Trump abused his official powers is the only available legal strategy for Smith now that the court has ruled. The special prosecutor has no other choice.

The change, however, dramatizes part of what was so wrong with the Supreme Court's opinion. It simply cannot be part of the genuine official powers of the president of the United States to criminally interfere with lawful election results. Immunizing Trump's alleged conduct committed using his presidential powers subverts the rule of law. It all but invites future bad-actor presidents, potentially including Trump, to make sure their criminal acts have an official cast to avoid prosecution.

If Trump is elected, his Justice Department will withdraw the criminal charges against him, and Smith's refile will end up in the dustbin of history. When the Supreme Court decided the immunity case at the beginning of July, Joe Biden was still the Democratic candidate, and Trump's victory seemed very probable. Now, with Kamala Harris as the Democratic candidate, the odds look very different. So Smith's decision to refile isn't merely the honorable act of a warrior sure to go down in the fight.

Similarly, Smith's decision to appeal the dismissal of the charges brought against Trump in federal district court in Florida—the charges on retaining classified documents—will be more than symbolic if Trump loses the election.

But even in the scenario where Harris becomes president and the case goes forward, the Supreme Court will get the last word. Trump will appeal a decision by the federal district court in Washington to let these charges stand. After passing through the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, such an appeal would end up with the justices. They would then have to apply the rules that they created in July.

The upshot is that Trump could still conceivably face conviction and sentencing in federal court. But don't count on that happening anytime soon.

Donald Trump thinks God saved his life to make him president

Did God save Donald Trump's life from the assassin's bullets because he wants him to be the next president of the United States? Donald Trump thinks so.

Speaking to Dr. Phil on Tuesday, he argued that he should have died on that stage in Butler, the odds of his surviving being "20 million to one." If he hadn't turned his head at that exact moment just the exact amount he did, if several other unlikely things hadn't happened, the shooter would have got him. His gun-owning sons explained to him that "It's a guaranteed shot for a bad shooter ... like sinking a one-foot putt."

The only explanation he can imagine for all this luck is that God protected him to make sure he returns to the White House. He took the wrong lesson from his near-death experience.

Some great power

Dr. Phil asks him why was he spared. "There had to be some great power," Trump said, "because you just can't say, millions to one. ... I shouldn't be here with you."

Dr. Phil then asks, "Is there a purpose? Is there a reason you think you were spared?"

"Well, the only thing I can think is that God loves our country and he thinks we're going to bring our country back," Trump explained. "He wants to bring it back, it's so bad right now what's happening, when you look at crime, the horrible things that are happening inside our country." He could solve the problems quickly.

"It has to be God," he continued. "I mean, how can you say it's luck when it's, you know, (spacing out and emphasizing the words) 20 million to one?"

He claimed that the Democrats have so rigged the election against him that his winning "would really serve to say that there's some incredible power up there that wanted me to be involved in saving—and maybe it's more than saving the nation, maybe it's saving the world."

If he'd remained president, he said, Russia wouldn't have invaded Ukraine and Hamas wouldn't have attacked Israel. The world would be a better and safer place.

Trump isn't a Christian in any useful sense, as I've written. I don't expect him to understand the very tangly theological questions of why God does what he does in the world.

I do expect him to know enough about God—if he's going to claim his favor he should know something about him—to know that he has no good idea why God does what he does. "How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out,"

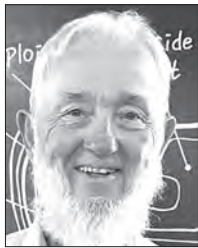
Red Caesarism GOP schism

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey Connolly aka "Pepe Batbon" is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.



A MAGA Moneymaker Medley

I'm detested by intelligent men and women
I'm in denial, unphased by their deep derision
Insulting, projecting, spouting violent rhetoric
I lie saying my campaign fund is meteoric
I'm the best ever liar you can't deny that
Disregard my convictions, impeachments, fat
I brag and bluster admiring Putin's iron glove
I'm proud, self-anointed king of demagogic love
Now a martyr and a hero "I'm your retribution"
I'm your right-wing savior "only I can do it"
Buy my Bibles and shoes make a contribution
Gotta pay lawyers keep that money comin in
'Suckers and losers' with your help I'll win
Your dollars help me advance with J.D. Vance.

ILLINOIS

From page 6

public schools still use corporal punishment, almost 70,000 students are being struck at least once by school personnel during an academic year, according to research cited by the pediatrician group.

State Rep. Margaret Croke, a Chicago Democrat whose school-age child attends Catholic school, championed the Illinois law. Her

as the Apostle Paul put it.

God has his reasons

The candidate ought to know that the great and incredible power up there he invokes is way, way too big for a mere mortal to know why he (or it) has done what he's done, or seems to have done. He should know how presumptuous it is to claim God as a campaign supporter.

There are lots of possible reasons God might have saved Trump's life—if he did, and the religious believer is not bound to believe that even very high odds show divine intent—other than wanting him to be president.

What if God did save Trump's life, but saved him because he wants the Democrats to win, knowing that a replacement candidate might beat Kamala Harris? Maybe he wants the Trump-led Republicans to get beaten so badly they'll stop assuming he's on their side or see that they could be a better party than they are.

Maybe he sees that it's so bad right now what's happening that America needs the Democrats' policies, not the Republicans'. (It's at least arguable—I would argue it—that on most matters the Democratic positions come closer to the body of Catholic social teaching than do the Republican positions.)

Perhaps God doesn't care much about which candidate wins the election. He certainly lets people make their choices, even when they make very bad choices. That leads to a more interesting possibility, sadly one the candidate didn't think of.

What if God saved Trump's life to encourage him to change? To shock him into looking at himself and seeing his sins and failings and deciding to correct them and become a better man?

Power to the principals—Bureaucrats need to stop gatekeeping new teachers

This year, the Florida Legislature passed legislation allowing classical schools to hire teachers without having to jump through the usual hoops to confirm their state education certificates.

As the founder of an organization dedicated to expanding access to classical education, I'm grateful.

Existing teacher certification rules aren't a logical fit for classical schools, which are rooted in the Greek and Roman traditions of academic excellence and character development.

The new law will allow a teacher who specializes in Latin to teach students about the rhetoric of Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius without having to jump through more hoops to obtain a credential in English Language Arts.

But this change reminds me, a former certified public accountant, of the loopholes and deductions that get written into the tax code. Well-connected companies and special interests engineer ways to lower their tax bills while ordinary taxpayers get stuck with higher rates.

Classical schools will benefit from this new carve-out in state laws. But political leaders should be looking for ways to lower barriers to entry for all aspiring educators.

Leaders of classical schools know what to look for when they hire new teachers: instructors with strong character who are well read in the great books of Western civilization.

Other schools might have different priorities. A school focused on science and technology might want to attract career switchers with engineering backgrounds. A career academy will prioritize industry certifications and practical job skills. A performing arts school will look for teachers who have taken the stage professionally.

Different schools prioritize different skills and values. Their specific qualifications have one thing in common: They have little to do with whether a prospective teacher earned a degree from a traditional teacher preparation program or passed state-mandated exams.

But those are the requirements state laws prioritize for all prospective teachers.

Research has consistently shown that the requirements to get a state teaching certificate are, at best, loosely connected to a

intent was not to open the door to state regulation of private education, she told the AP, but to "keep kids out of harm's way."

Croke said she was disturbed by a Missouri school district that dropped corporal punishment in 2001, then reinstated it two years ago as an opt-in for parents. Croke wanted to send a message that "it never was going to be OK to inflict harm or pain on a child."

When the ban takes effect in January, Illinois will become just the fifth state in the nation to prohibit corporal punishment in all schools, along with New Jersey, Iowa, Maryland and New York. Today, 17 states technically allow corporal punishment in

By DAVID MILLS

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Perhaps he does so love our country that he wants the man who might be running it for four years to be a man of much more virtue than he is now.

Who knows? In any case, the last is the lesson Trump should have taken from his near-death experience. It should have made him reconsider his life, not decide that God specially favors him because he can save the world. That's the most dangerous belief a politician can hold.

Beyond us

Donald Trump, to his credit, doesn't completely believe he knows what God is doing. He seems to be, perhaps because he almost died, a little more thoughtful than we expect. Later in the interview, Dr. Phil asks him, "So you think you're meant to take those challenges on?"

"I don't know," Trump said, shaking his head. "I don't know. In thinking about it, it's beyond any of us, I guess, to know that." For his sake, and the country's, I hope he thinks more deeply about this and gives up any idea that God wants him elected.

By ERIKA DONALDS

The Heritage Foundation

Erika Donalds is CEO of OptimaEd and a Visiting Fellow in the Center for Education Policy at The Heritage Foundation.



teacher's effectiveness in helping students learn.

Classical education teachers in Florida will soon be able to bypass the most onerous certification requirements.

They will still have to have a bachelor's degree, pass a background check, and be of good moral character. But other decisions about who qualifies to teach in a classical education environment will be back where they belong: with principals.

The current teacher licensure system assumes they need colleges of education and state bureaucrats to screen effective candidates for them.

It forces teachers to take on debt to get traditional education degrees that don't make economic sense for them, and doesn't even guarantee they will be effective on the job. Teachers who come to the profession from any path other than a traditional education college often have to get a temporary teaching certificate—and by the time they're done jumping through the remaining hoops, many give up and take another job.

Effective principals know how to recruit, hire and retain and hire effective teachers for their schools.

School principals are some of the most trusted authority figures in American society. A recent survey by the Pew Research Center found their standing took a hit when schools closed during the pandemic, but they still have two and half times as much public trust as politicians.

So why do we allow politicians and state bureaucrats to serve as gatekeepers to the teaching profession?

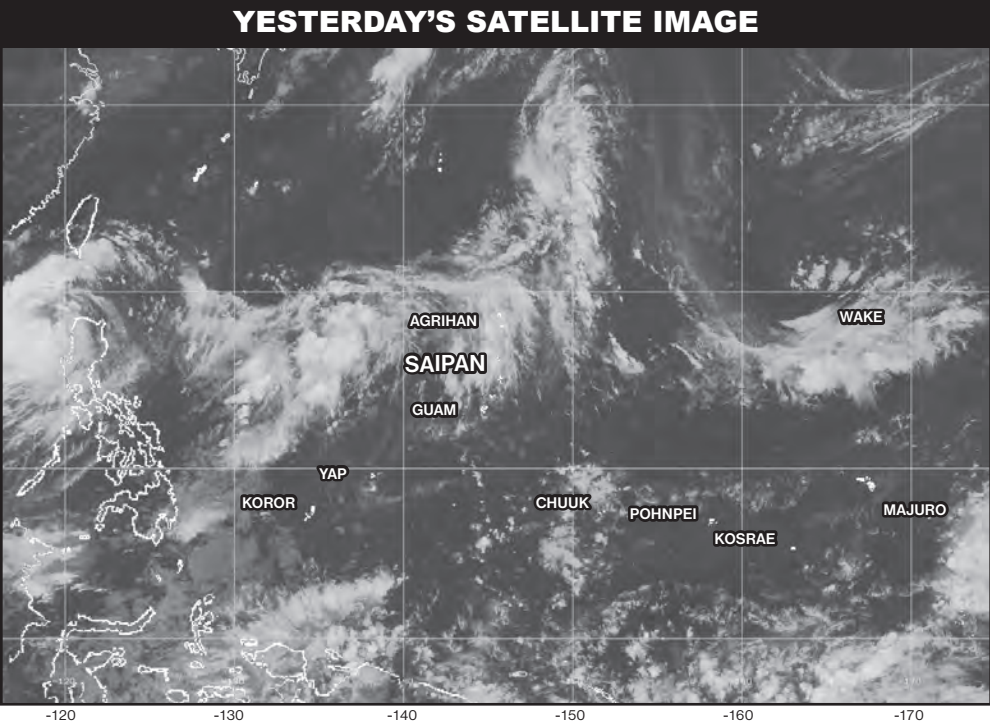
It's time to shift power back where it belongs—to the principals.

all schools, although four prohibit its use on students with disabilities. North Carolina state law doesn't preclude it but every school district in the state blocked its use in 2018.

Federal efforts to ban the practice have gone nowhere so far, including a 2023 measure co-sponsored by Illinois Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin. Given that thousands of children are still getting beaten at school every year, with negative results, it's time to get this legislation out of committee and into practice. Let's put the paddles away for good.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy.		A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny.		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Partly sunny	
87°	79°	87°	79°	87°	79°	87°	79°	87°	79°



PICTURE TIME: 6:27 AM TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery indicates partly cloudy skies and some upper-level cloud debris from heavier convection around the far northernMariana Islands. Ritidian and Tanapag buoys indicate seas are 2 to 4feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 78°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	89° / 79°	
Chuuk	Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	90 / 75°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	87° / 83°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:44 AM	7:11 PM	-
Thursday	7:30 AM	7:44 PM	-
Friday	8:15 AM	8:16 PM	-
Saturday	9:01 AM	8:51 PM	-
Sunday	9:49 AM	9:28 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 57°	
Beijing	Fair	83° / 66°	
Hong Kong	Fair	92° / 80°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
London	Mostly Sunny	68° / 50°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	98° / 75°	
Manila	Cloudy	85° / 77°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	87° / 81°	
New York	Clear	79° / 64°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	93° / 76°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 54°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 74°	
Rome	Sunny	91° / 72°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	88° / 71°	
San Francisco	Clear	70° / 59°	
Seoul	Sunny	86° / 71°	
Tokyo	Rain	90° / 75°	
Washington, DC	Clear	81° / 68°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:31 AM	Low Tide	0.90	
7:53 AM	High Tide	1.88	
2:39 PM	Low Tide	0.32	
8:53 PM	High Tide	1.85	

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
				7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

GRMC ranked as leading employer in '2024 Best Companies' survey

GUAM—Guam Regional Medical City is recognized as one of the island's best companies to work for, as highlighted by the Guam Business Magazine "Best Companies to Work For" island-wide survey.

GRMC employees participated in the survey, responding to questions based on a five-point scale with responses ranging from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree." The survey consisted of six categories: Attraction and Retention, Communication, Working Environment, Leadership, Decision Making, and Performance Management and Recognition. GRMC achieved an overall rating of 4.25, placing it among Guam's top companies to work for.

Communication and culture

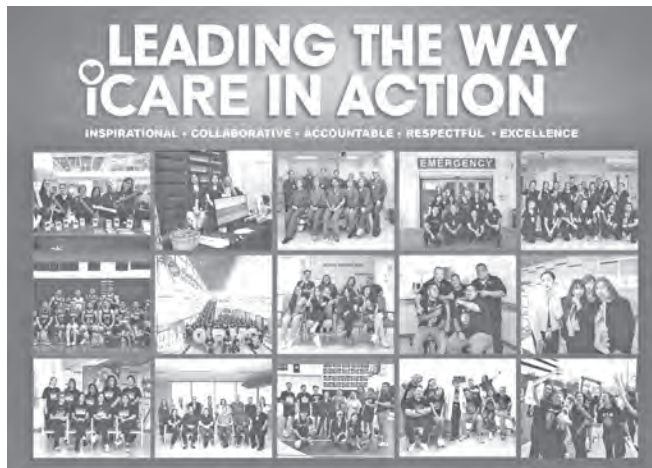
The highest scoring category for GRMC was "Communication," where the company averaged a 4.33. In this category, employees answered questions regarding their awareness of company changes, opportunities to express concerns, and whether they received an official orientation.

GRMC takes pride in cultivating a healthy and safe work culture that promotes inclusivity, opportunity to voice opinions, and acknowledging the hard work and dedication of its staff.

"At GRMC, everyone has a seat at the table. Everyone is provided with the necessary tools and resources to succeed. We want to ensure that our staff have an opportunity to excel and explore areas in the hospital that they would not have otherwise thought possible," said Charlotte Huntsman, GRMC chief human resources officer.

GRMC's commitment to transparent and effective communication has fostered a culture of openness and trust. Employee well-being and development are essential to the success of the organization. The hospital offers career growth opportunities and a strong emphasis on mental health support.

"I feel honored to serve as part of GRMC's pioneering Human Resources team and help lead the Human Experience space at GRMC. The support, career development, and mentorship I've received have been instrumental in my growth as a professional. Over the years, I've witnessed GRMC's commitment to excellence and focus on creat-



ing an outstanding workplace. The recognition, benefits, career development, and mental health support from our organization, leaders, and stakeholders make me feel deeply appreciated, valued, and cared for. It fills me with pride to be part of GRMC, where enhancing employee experiences is as important as the exceptional care we provide to our patients. Working alongside such dedicated colleagues is truly humbling," said Cristal Vasquez, GRMC director of Human Resources and Experience.

The GRMC familia spirit

"One of our organizational goals is to create "joy" in the workplace," says Huntsman. She said that through the Human Experience Department, they celebrate GRMC staff by recognition and rewards for performance, patient and customer recognition, and employee partner recognition, to name a few.

GRMC fosters a team-oriented culture where respect, trust, and care are paramount. Employees feel like they are part of a family, working together to achieve the best outcomes for both their colleagues and patients.

Gerry Topacio, GRMC's Facilities Life Safety Lead and Employee of the Quarter says, "GRMC is my second family, the people here treat each with respect, trust and care for one another. We work as a team and I aspire to be the best for my team."

This sense of teamwork and family extends across all departments at GRMC. Employees in every area, from clinical to administrative roles, contribute to providing exceptional healthcare to the people of Guam.

"Working at Guam Regional Medical City for nearly 8 years has been an incredibly rewarding experience. The supportive and collaborative environment fostered

by my colleagues and the administration has allowed me to grow both professionally and personally. I've had the privilege of working in several departments and grow in my career working in areas like Pediatrics, Emergency Department, and Medical-Surgical, in which I feel no matter what area I was in or the team I work with—we are dedicated to provide exceptional healthcare to our community to the best of our ability which has been fulfilling to see the positive impact of our efforts on patients' lives. The challenges and opportunities I've encountered have shaped me into a more resilient and compassionate professional, and I am grateful for the lasting relationships and memories I've built during my time here," said Vanessa Tudela, GRMC Medical-Surgical nurse manager.

Jayson Duban, GRMC's IT tech supervisor and 2023 Employee of the Year, quotes, "GRMC has been a cornerstone of my professional growth and personal fulfillment. The supportive environment, collaborative culture, and the chance to take on meaningful challenges have been instrumental in my career development. In addition, working in the IT Help Desk at GRMC has been incredibly rewarding. Supporting both employees and patients with their IT needs, I've witnessed firsthand how our collaborative and supportive work culture makes a real difference. What truly sets GRMC apart is its dedication to the well-being and success of its employees."

For any career opportunity inquiries, visit our website: <https://www.grmc.gu/careers/>.

For more information, contact Krystal Ramos krystalmae.ramos@grmc.gu (671) 645-5500 ext. 5676. (PR)

Nation

Ready or not, the election season in US about to start

It might feel like the presidential election is still a long way off. It's not.

Election Day on Nov. 5 is only about two months away, and major dates, events and political developments will make it fly by. The stretch between now and then will go as fast as summer break from school in most parts of the country.

The first mail ballots will be sent to voters this Friday. The first presidential debate is set for Sept. 10. Former President Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, is scheduled to be sentenced in his New York hush money case on Sept. 18. And early in-person voting will start as soon as Sept. 20 in some states.

Here's a look at why the calendar will move quickly, with the Democratic and Republican conventions over and Labor Day signaling the traditional start of campaign season.

Who's ready to vote?

The first batch of ballots typically sent out are ones to military and overseas voters. Under federal law, that must happen at least 45 days before an election—which this year is Sept. 21.

Some states start earlier. North Carolina will begin sending mail ballots to all voters who request them, including military personnel and overseas voters, on Sept. 6.

Voter registration deadlines vary by state, with most falling between eight and 30 days before the election, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. The deadline is Oct. 7 in Georgia, one of this year's most prominent presidential battlegrounds.

Nearly all states offer some version of in-person voting, though the rules and dates vary considerably. In Pennsylvania, another of the major presidential battleground states, voters can visit their local election office to request, complete and return a mail ballot beginning Sept. 16. For those counting, that's a little over two weeks from now.

The gloves come off

Whether, where and under what rules the Democratic and Republican presidential and vice presidential nomi-

nees will debate has been a point of contention for weeks. But for now, two match-ups are on the calendar.

Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris have accepted an invitation from ABC News to debate Sept. 10 in Philadelphia.

Harris' pick for vice president, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, and Trump's, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, have agreed to an Oct. 1 debate hosted by CBS News in New York City.

Harris has forecast a possible second debate with Trump, but her proposal appeared to be contingent on the GOP nominee's participation in the Sept. 10 debate. Trump has proposed three presidential debates with different television networks.

Vance has challenged Walz to another vice presidential debate on Sept. 18, although it's not been set.

A possible criminal sentence for Trump

Trump is scheduled to be sentenced Sept. 18 in his hush money criminal case, though his lawyers have asked the judge to delay the proceeding until after Election Day. A decision is expected early this month.

In a letter to Judge Juan M. Merchan, Trump's lawyers suggested that holding the sentencing as scheduled, about seven weeks before Election Day, would amount to election interference. On Sept. 16, Merchan is expected to rule on Trump's request to overturn the guilty verdict and dismiss the case because of the U.S. Supreme Court's July presidential immunity ruling.

Trump was convicted in May on 34 counts of falsifying business records to conceal a \$130,000 hush money payment to porn actor Stormy Daniels just before the 2016 presidential election. Falsifying business records is punishable by up to four years in prison. Other potential sentences include probation, a fine or a conditional discharge that would require Trump to stay out of trouble to avoid additional punishment.

Next steps in Trump's other New York cases

On Friday, the 2nd U.S. Cir-

cuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments in Trump's appeal of a jury's verdict last year ordering him to pay \$5 million to writer E. Jean Carroll after it found him liable for sexually assaulting and defaming her. Trump also is appealing a verdict in a second trial in January in which a jury found him liable on additional defamation claims and ordered him to pay Carroll \$83.3 million. Trump's lawyers have until Sept. 13 to file a brief in that appeal.

On Sept. 26, a New York appeals court will hear oral arguments in Trump's challenge of a nearly \$500 million civil fraud judgment in state Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit against him. The court typically rules about a month after arguments, meaning a decision could come before the November election. Trump's lawyers argue that a judge's Feb. 16 finding that the former president lied for years about his wealth as he built his real estate empire was "erroneous" and "egregious." State lawyers responded in court papers this week that there's "overwhelming evidence" to support the verdict.

What about Trump's election and document cases?

A state case in Georgia that charged Trump and 18 others in a wide-ranging scheme to overturn his 2020 loss in the state is stalled with no chance of going to trial before the election.

Federal prosecutors have brought two criminal cases against Trump, but one was dismissed by a judge last month and the other is likely to be reshaped by the recent U.S. Supreme Court opinion that conferred broad immunity on former presidents for official acts they take in office.

Special counsel Jack Smith has appealed the dismissal by U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon of an indictment charging Trump with hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida and obstructing the FBI's efforts to get them back. But even if a federal appeals court reinstates the case and reverses the judge's ruling that Smith's appointment was unconstitutional, there's no chance of a trial taking place this year. (AP)

World

Netanyahu pushes back vs new pressure over Gaza, hostages

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday pushed back against a new wave of pressure to reach a cease-fire deal in Gaza after hundreds of thousands of Israelis protested and went on strike and U.S. President Joe Biden said he needed to do more after nearly 11 months of fighting.

In his first public address since Sunday's mass protests showed many Israelis' furious response to the discovery of six more dead hostages, Netanyahu said he will continue to insist on a demand that has emerged as a major sticking point in talks—continued Israeli control of the Philadelphi corridor, a narrow band along Gaza's border with Egypt where Israel contends Hamas smuggles weapons into Gaza. Egypt and Hamas deny it.

Netanyahu called the corridor vital to ensuring Hamas cannot rearm via tunnels. "This is the oxygen of Hamas," he said.

And he added: "No one is more committed to freeing the hostages than me. ... No one will



AP
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stands before a map of the Gaza Strip, telling viewers how Hamas has imported arms into the territory since Israel's withdrawal in 2005, during a news conference in Jerusalem, Monday, Sept. 2, 2024.

preach to me on this issue.'

Israelis had poured into the streets late Sunday in grief and anger in what appeared to be the largest protest since the start of the war. The families and much of the public blamed Netanyahu, saying the hostages could have been returned alive in a deal with Hamas. A rare general strike was held across the country on Monday.

Late Monday, several thousand demonstrators gathered

outside Netanyahu's private home in central Jerusalem, chanting, "Deal. Now." and carrying coffins draped in the Israeli flag. Scuffles broke out when police snatched away the coffins, and several protesters were arrested. Thousands more marched outside Netanyahu's Likud party in Tel Aviv, according to Israeli media.

But others support Netanyahu's drive to continue the campaign in Gaza, which was trig-

gered by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into Israel and has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians in the territory. Netanyahu says the assault will force militants to give in to Israeli demands, potentially facilitate rescue operations and ultimately annihilate the group.

Key ally the United States is showing impatience. Biden spoke to reporters as he arrived at the White House for

a Situation Room meeting with the U.S. mediation team in the negotiations. Asked if Netanyahu was doing enough, Biden responded, "No."

He insisted that negotiators remain "very close" to a deal, adding, "Hope springs eternal."

Hamas has accused Israel of dragging out months of negotiations by issuing new demands, including for lasting Israeli control over the Phila-

delphi corridor and a second corridor running across Gaza. Hamas has offered to release all hostages in return for an end to the war, the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces and the release of a large number of Palestinian prisoners, including high-profile militants—broadly the terms called for under an outline for a deal put forward by Biden in July.

Venezuelan judge issues arrest warrant for opposition's former presidential candidate

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A Venezuelan judge on Monday issued an arrest warrant for the opposition's former presidential candidate Edmundo González as part of a criminal investigation into the results of the highly anticipated July election that both the ruling party and its opponents claim to have won.

The warrant was issued at the request of authorities who accuse González, a former diplomat, of various crimes

including conspiracy, falsifying documents and usurpation of powers. The move is the latest escalation of repression against the opposition in the month after election officials declared President Nicolás Maduro had won a third six-year term in office.

Authorities sought the warrant after González failed to appear three times to answer questions from prosecutors. González, 75, has not made any public appearances since the day after the election. His campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press.

Prosecutors have zeroed in on thousands of tally sheets known as *actas*—printouts

measuring several feet that resemble shopping receipts—that have long been considered the ultimate proof of election results in Venezuela. Each of the 30,000 electronic voting machines used in the July 28 election printed several copies of the sheets, whose information was also transmitted to the National Electoral Council.

Ruling party-loyal electoral authorities declared Maduro the victor hours after polls closed, but they did not publish results broken down by voting machine as they had done in previous presidential elections. The National Electoral Council claimed it could not release the detailed information because its website was hacked.

Fierce storm blows out of northern PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A fierce storm was blowing out of the northern Philippines Tuesday after leaving at least 14 people dead in landslides, floods and swollen rivers, disaster-response officials said.

Tropical Storm Yagi swept past Paoay town in Ilocos Norte province into the South China Sea with sustained winds of up to 75 kilometers (47 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 125 kph (78 mph), according to the weather bureau.

It was forecast to strengthen into a typhoon as it barrels northwestward over the sea toward southern China.

Storm warnings remained in most northern Philippine provinces, where residents were warned of the lingering danger of landslides in rain-soaked mountain villages and floodings in the farming lowlands of Luzon, the country's most populous region.

Locally called Enteng, Yagi enhanced seasonal monsoon rains and unleashed down-

pours across Luzon, including in the densely populated capital region, metropolitan Manila, where classes and government work remained suspended Tuesday.

At least 14 people died in landslides, floods and swollen rivers in northern and central provinces, including in Antipolo, a popular Roman Catholic pilgrimage city and tourism destination west of Manila where at least three residents, including a pregnant woman, died in a hillside landslide that buried shanties and four others drowned in creeks and rivers, Antipolo's disaster-mitigation officer Enrilito Bernardo Jr. told The Associated Press by telephone.

Four other villagers remained missing after their house was swept away in the deluge, Bernardo said.

Thousands of travelers were stranded on Monday after sea travel was temporarily halted in several ports and 34 domestic flights were suspended due to the stormy weather.

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Life & Style

James Darren, 'Gidget' teen idol, singer and director, dies at 88

LOS ANGELES (AP)—James Darren, a teen idol who helped ignite the 1960s surfing craze as a charismatic beach boy paired off with Sandra Dee in the hit film "Gidget," died Monday at 88.

Darren died in his sleep at a Los Angeles hospital, his son Jim Moret told news outlets.

Moret told The Hollywood Reporter that Darren was supposed to have had an aortic valve replacement but was too weak for the surgery. "I always thought he would pull through," his son told the entertainment trade, "because he was so cool. He was always cool."

In his long career, Darren acted, sang and built up a successful behind-the-scenes career as a television director, helming episodes of such well-known series

as "Beverly Hills 90210" and "Melrose Place." In the 1980s, he was Officer Jim Corrigan on the television cop show "T.J. Hooker."

But to young movie fans of the late 1950s, he would be remembered best as Moon-doggie, the dark-haired surfer boy in the smash 1959 release "Gidget." Dee starred as the title character, a spunky Southern Californian who hits the beach and eventually falls in love with Moondoggie.

"I was in love with Sandra," Darren later recalled. "I thought that she was absolutely perfect as Gidget. She had tremendous charm."

The film was based on a novel that a California man, Frederick Kohner, had written about his own teenage daughter and helped spur interest in surfing — one that influenced pop



AP
James Darren — left, one of the stars of the film For Those Who Think Young — chats with Nancy Sinatra, centre, and Claudia Martin about their film debuts, August 13, 1963.

music, slang and even fashion.

For Darren, his success with teen fans led to a recording contract, as it did with many

young actors at the time, among them Tab Hunter and Annette Funicello. Two of Darren's singles, "Goodbye

Cruel World" and "Her Royal Majesty," reached the Top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100 chart. ("Goodbye Cruel World" also appeared in Steven Spielberg's 2022 semi-autobiographical film, "The Fabelmans.") Other singles included "Gidget" and "Angel Face."

Darren was the only "Gidget" cast member who appeared in both its sequels, 1961's "Gidget Goes Hawaiian" and 1963's "Gidget Goes to Rome." Dee was replaced by Deborah Walley in the second film and Cindy Carol in the third. ("Gidget" later became a television show, launching the career of Sally Field.)

"They had me under contract; I was a prisoner," Darren told Entertainment Weekly in 2004. "But with those lovely young ladies, it was the best prison I think I'll ever be in."

As a contract player at Columbia Studios, Darren appeared in grown-up films, too, including "The Brothers Rico," "Operation Meatball" and "The Guns of Navarone."

By the mid-'60s, when Darren appeared in "For Those Who Think Young" and "The Lively Set," his big-screen acting career was almost over. He appeared in just a handful of movies after the 1960s ended, last appearing in 2017's "Lucky," directed by John Carroll Lynch.

But he remained active on television, appearing as a lead on the sci-fi show "The Time Tunnel" in the late 1960s, and doing guest spots and small recurring roles in TV shows such as "The Love Boat," "Hawaii Five-O" and

"Fantasy Island."

Darren was a series regular for four seasons of the William Shatner-starrer "T.J. Hooker" in the 1980s. While appearing on the show, he noticed that no director was listed for an upcoming sequence and asked if he could try out for it.

"When it was shown, I got several offers to direct," he told the New York Daily News. "Soon I was getting so many offers to direct, I kind of gave up acting and singing."

For almost two years, Darren directed episodes of "Walker, Texas Ranger," "Hunter," "Melrose Place," "Beverly Hills 90210" and other series. He returned to acting in the 1990s with small roles in "Melrose Place" and "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine."

Darren was born James Ercolani in 1936 and grew up in South Philadelphia, not far from such fellow teen idols of the 1950s and '60s as Fabian and Frankie Avalon. Singing came easy to him, and at 14 he was appearing in local nightclubs.

"From the age of 5 or 6 I knew I wanted to be an entertainer, or famous maybe," he said in a 2003 interview with the News-Press of Fort Myers, Florida. He noted that such luminaries as Eddie Fisher and Al Martino had lived in the same area as he did, "a real neighborhood. It made you feel you could be successful, too."

According to a 1958 Los Angeles Times profile, he got a break when he went to New York to get some pictures taken and the photographer's office put him in touch with a talent scout.

Venice Film Festival welcomes Pitt and Clooney, and their new film 'Wolfs'

VENICE, Italy (AP)—George Clooney and Brad Pitt returned to the Venice Film Festival on Sunday for the world premiere of "Wolfs."

Before hitting the red carpet, the Hollywood stars reflected on reuniting, the rise of streaming and Clooney's New York Times op-ed urging President Joe Biden to end his reelection bid.

Asked about the impact of his piece, Clooney said he'd not yet had to answer that question.

"The person who should be applauded is the president who did the most selfless thing anyone's done since George Washington," Clooney said. "All the machinations that got us there,

none of that's going to be remembered. And it shouldn't be. What should be remembered is the selfless act."

Clooney continued: "It's very hard to let go of power. We know that. We've seen that all around the world. For someone to say, I think there's a better way forward? All credit goes to him."

Most of the discussion was focused on the film, however, an old school action thriller directed by Jon Watts, in which they play lone wolf fixers unhappy to have been hired for the same job to cover up a bloody mess involving a district attorney (played by Amy Ryan).

The film will have a limited theatrical release, starting

Sept. 20, before hitting Apple TV+ on Sept. 27. Apple TV+ acquired "Wolfs" in a competitive bidding war, beating out both traditional studios and rival streaming services.

Deadline reported in 2021 that the understanding was that it would come with a robust theatrical release, something the stars may have also forfeited money to ensure, the trade publication said. Then, several weeks ago the streamer announced different plans: Theatrical would be limited. Streaming would be quick.

Clooney confirmed that they did forfeit some of their salaries to guarantee a theatrical release and that it's a "bummer" that it won't be wider than a few hun-

dred theaters.

"We would have liked it, we wanted it. That's why Brad and I gave some of our money back," he said, adding that a report in the New York Times overestimated the dollar amount of their salaries by millions.

Far from being anti-streaming, however, Clooney said that everyone is simply finding their way during this revolution. There are bumps and mistakes, but there's also much more opportunities for actors, he said.

"Streaming, we need it, our industry needs it," Clooney said. "They also benefit from having films released ... and we're figuring it out, we haven't gotten it figured out yet."

Man suddenly smitten with woman he's known for years

DEAR ABBY: I have been around "Kendra" since she was 4. I am 59 and not married to her mother, although we are good friends. Kendra is 36 now and has an 8-year-old son. She lives with her boyfriend, who is the father. They are not married. We have a great relationship.

For some reason, over the past four months, my feelings for Kendra have grown into an infatuation. I mean, I have always loved her, but now I wish I was with her. I WANT to be with her. My feelings are so strong, I would even marry her. I know she loves me, but I doubt in the way I love her now.

I don't want to destroy what we have, but it's killing me that I can't be with her. I have jealous feelings like a kid. I love her very much and would never do anything to hurt her. I guess I'm just a stupid old man thinking this way, but I can't help it. I can honestly say I'm in love with her. I am confused about what I need to do.

LOVING HER IN THE EAST

DEAR LOVING: What happened four months ago that changed your feelings about Kendra from the paternal ones you have felt for the last 32 years? If you express to her the (lustful) feelings you are harboring, you will blow the entire family apart. An appropriate place to examine your feelings would be in the office of a licensed psycho-

therapist. Please don't wait.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Jake," tells his mother where we plan to go and what we plan to do on our "date nights." On several occasions, she has actually shown up. She pretends to be surprised when she sees us, asking us "what we're up to." She doesn't try to sit with us or hang around, thank goodness, but she's there, watching and listening from a short distance. She has never liked me, and I suspect this is another of her passive-aggressive ways to get under my skin.

Our date nights are an active effort to try to save our marriage. The first time she showed up, I told Jake I didn't like it and that it better not happen again. He assured me it wouldn't. I also asked him to stop telling her where we're going and what we're going to do. He hasn't done that. He says he "can't" tell his mother to leave because it's a public place, and she has every right to be there, too. What should I do?

HAD IT IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR HAD IT: If you and Jake are serious about saving your marriage and not yet in marriage counseling, start talking with a licensed marriage and family therapist NOW. Jake appears to be a man who can't say no to his mother. Your MIL does have a right to patronize any res-

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



taurant she pleases, but she should not be hovering over your shoulders. A therapist may be able to help you get that message across to your husband, whose priorities appear to be skewed.

In the meantime, YOU should take charge of your date nights. Make the reservations and tell no one where you are going—even your husband.

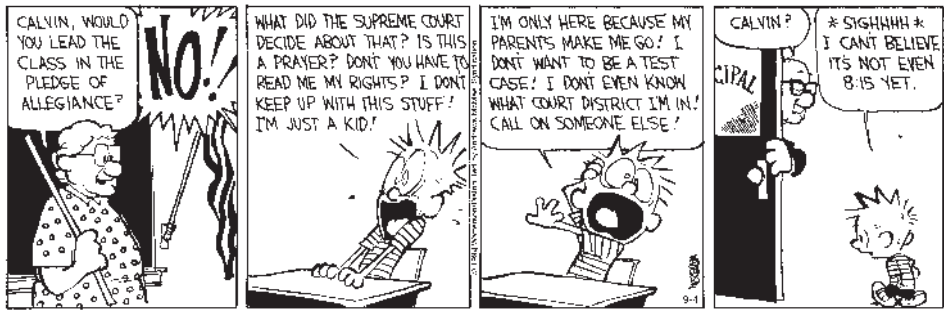
■■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

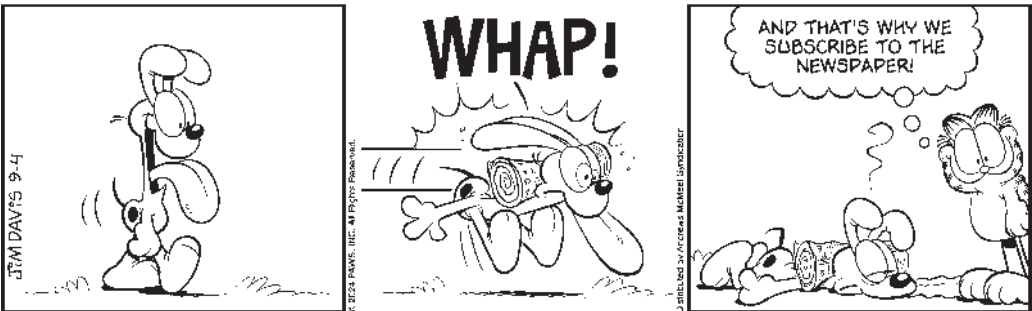
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



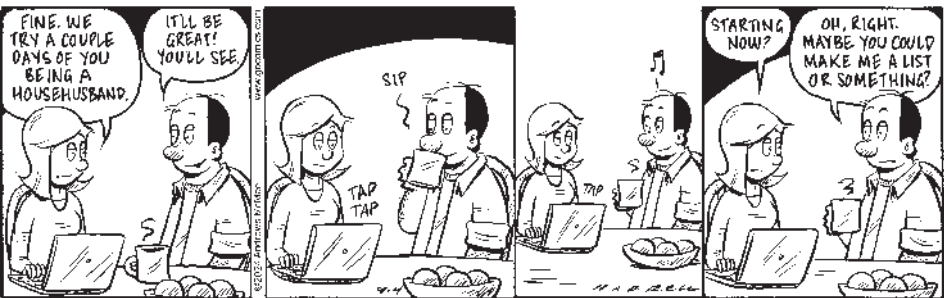
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



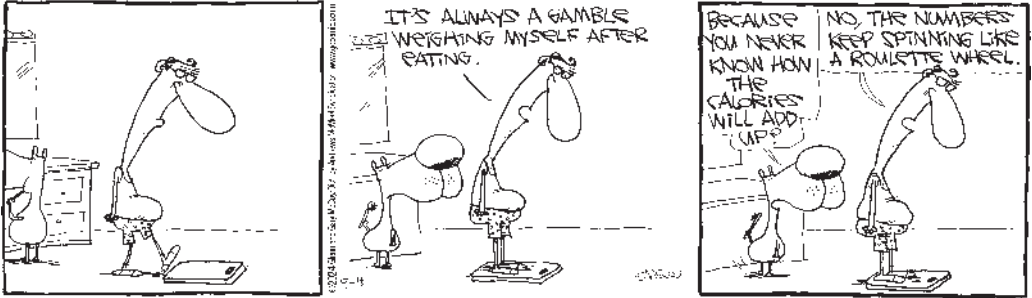
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 25 "What's — for superior me?" 40 Hosp. sections 10 "Eureka!" 12 Lustrous white 14 "— fair in ..."

DOWN 1 Climb 15 What-ever 19 Trench 20 Speck 21 Golf great Sam 22 Baby grands, e.g. 23 Part of A.D. 24 Folly 25 Some-what (Suff.) 26 Played at a casino 28 More prudent 29 Dilutes 30 Toto 31 "Do — others ..." 32 "Hum-bug!" 34 "Uh-uh" 35 "Toodle-oo!"

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-4

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Whitney Cummings, 42; Beyonce Knowles, 43; Wes Bentley, 46; Drew Pinsky, 66.

Happy Birthday: Step back, observe what's happening around you and prepare to proceed with thought, high energy and the intent to convert any negative energy that comes your way into something positive and worthwhile. Be the one to decipher what's best for you. Please don't put yourself in someone else's drama; write your own script and turn it into a reality. Use the element of surprise to captivate your followers. Your numbers are 6, 17, 22, 27, 33, 41, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Smile, be happy and do something energetic and fun to help you engage with like-minded people. Expand your awareness and interests; you'll learn something new and discover your comfort zone. Trust your instincts, do what feels right and walk away from negativity and those standing in your way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Build a strong base, good friendships and a healthy lifestyle. Don't leave details up to someone who doesn't share your vision. Put your energy into stabilizing your position, reputation and prospects. Control situations, create opportunities and spare yourself the aggravation of uncertainty or disappointment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Broaden your outlook, expand your interests and engage in something that motivates you to participate more. What you discover about yourself will give you more confidence to strive for a better, more efficient lifestyle. Self-improvement, social interaction and romance are on the rise.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take better care of yourself, your surroundings and your relationships with those nearby.

Learn from experience, and you'll find a unique way to handle sensitive situations. Refuse to let emotions cost you or cause setbacks you can avoid by thinking before responding. Choose peace over arguing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Give a shout-out to those you agree with and join forces to ensure you contribute to making a difference. There is power in numbers, and participating in something you believe in will positively impact you and your stomping grounds. Don't sit back; be part of the solution.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Think about the best way forward, unleash your energy and plan strategically to make every move count. Refuse to let outside interference come between you and your target. Trust in yourself, your ability and your inner force to get you to the finish line.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Choose a creative outlet and immerse yourself. Refuse to let outside influences cause you grief or disrupt your peace of mind. Pay attention to what brings you joy and distance yourself from drama, chaos and those trying to engage you in something detrimental to your emotional well-being.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Help those less able or fortunate. Participate in events that encourage progress and a better life for everyone. Be the one to start a movement, make a difference or educate those who have lost their way. Paying for someone else's mistake is not up to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Work ethic will separate you from your associates. Be the one to set high standards; ultimately, it will pay rewards. Detail, discipline and honesty will be less important to someone you least expect. Keep your guard up, keep your secrets to yourself and keep your

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



progress top-notch. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider your next move, evaluate your choices and plan your actions carefully. The wrong move will be costly, and the time and effort you put into your decision will make a difference. Explore your options, reset your agenda and refuse to let emotional interference throw you off your game. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You're in the groove and must trust your instincts. Look, see and do what feels right, and don't waste time. Expect to go it alone and ignore those trying to deter you from what's important to you. Consistency and preservation are your path to victory. Self-improvement is favored. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The aim is to simplify your life, not make it more complicated. Downsize, spend less and do whatever it takes to reduce stress. Indulge in heart-to-heart talks, gather information and insight into what's possible, and stop waffling about what to do next. Take charge and do your part. Birthday Baby: You are clever, intense and speculative. You are detailed and influential.

⚡: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ⚡⚡: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ⚡⚡⚡: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ⚡⚡⚡⚡: Aim high; start new projects. ⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

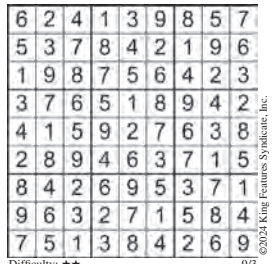
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



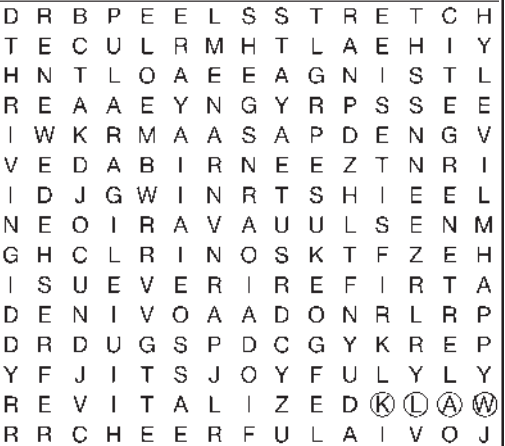
Difficulty: ★★★ 9/4 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FEELING WELL-RESTED IN THE MORNING Solution: 5 letters



© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 9/4 Agile, Alert, Animated, Awake, Buoyant, Cheerful, Chipper, Clear, Coffee, Dreams, Eager, Energetic, Enthusiastic, Giddy, Happy, Health, Jocular, Jovial, Joyful, Lively, Merry, Perky, Plans, Ready, Refreshed, Rejuvenated, Renewed, Rested, Revitalized, Sing, Sleep, Sparkling, Spry, Stretch, Thriving, Vibrant, Vigorous, Vivid, Walk, Zesty, Zingy Yesterday's Answer: Sites For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

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For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Pegula's 7th Grand Slam quarterfinal will be against No. 1 Swiatek



NEW YORK

(AP)—Jessica Pegula is back in the quarterfinals at the U.S. Open after a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Diana Shnaider on Monday, her seventh trip to that round at a Grand Slam tournament. Now comes the hard part: Pegula is 0-6 in major quarterfinals over her career—and this next one will come against No. 1 Iga Swiatek.

The No. 6-seeded Pegula, an American whose parents own the NFL's Buffalo Bills and NHL's Buffalo Sabres, is on quite a run at the moment, having won 13 of her past 14 matches, all on hard courts. That included her second consecutive title in Canada and an appearance in the final at the Cincinnati Open, where she lost to No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka.

"I feel like there's been more pressure this year, because I did so well coming into this tournament," said the 30-year-old Pegula, the oldest woman left in the field. "I want to keep working my way and hopefully bringing my best tennis for the later rounds this time."

Swiatek was tied at 4-all with No. 16 Liudmila Samsonova on Monday night before grabbing seven straight games en route to winning 6-4, 6-1. When Swiatek captured the 2022 U.S. Open for one of her five Grand Slam titles, she eliminated Pegula in the quarterfinals.

"She's in a good rhythm right now, and she won so many matches past weeks," Swiatek said about Pegula, "that, for sure, it's going to be a challenge."

Indeed, half of Pegula's six quarterfinal exits at



Jessica Pegula, of the United States, reacts after winning a match against Diana Shnaider, of Russia, in the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Monday, Sept. 2, 2024, in New York.

Slams came against a No. 1 player — Swiatek twice and Ash Barty once.

"I'll just try to draw from those experiences and kind of how I felt going into the next match, but it's just so tough," Pegula said. "I mean, I know you don't want the cliché answer, but it's just kind of one match at a time, and every day kind of feels different. It depends on who you are playing, how the conditions are, when you're playing. There are so many variables day to day."

Also returning to the quarterfinals was Karolina Muchova, a 6-3, 6-3 winner over

No. 5 Jasmine Paolini, the runner-up at the French Open and Wimbledon this season. Muchova next plays No. 22 Beatriz Haddad Maia, who got past 2018 Australian Open champion Caroline Wozniacki 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 to become the first woman from Brazil in the U.S. Open quarterfinals since Maria Bueno in 1968.

Haddad Maia is a 28-year-old left-hander who was given a 10-month suspension after failing a doping test in 2019. She was a semifinalist at the French Open last year but had not been past the second round at Flushing Meadows until now.

Swiatek was tied at 4-all with No. 16 Liudmila Samsonova on Monday night before grabbing seven straight games en route to winning 6-4, 6-1.

When Swiatek captured the 2022 U.S. Open for one of her five Grand Slam titles, she eliminated Pegula in the quarterfinals.

"This was my worst and most serious injury, I would say. But, I mean, I love the sport, so in my head, I was like, 'I will do everything I could to (get) better and try.' And here I am today," said Muchova, whose U.S. Open ended a year ago with a loss to eventual champion Coco Gauff. "I'm just a really

happy kid now."

Gauff was seeded No. 3 this year and was eliminated Sunday by No. 13 Emma Navarro.

In men's action Monday, No. 1 Jannik Sinner beat No. 14 Tommy Paul 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5), 6-1 at night to set up a quarterfinal showdown against 2021 champion Daniil Medvedev.

No. 5 Medvedev, the only past men's winner still in the bracket, overwhelmed beat Nuno Borges 6-0, 6-1, 6-3 in a victory delayed for six minutes—along with every other match going on at the time—because of a fire alarm in the

building that houses the electronic line-calling system.

No. 25 Jack Draper became the first British man to reach the quarterfinals in New York since the recently retired Andy Murray did it in 2016. Draper, who exited in the fourth round a year ago, will appear in his first Slam quarterfinal thanks to a 6-3, 6-1, 6-2 win against unseeded Tomas Machac.

"I obviously miss Andy. Shoutout to Andy. What an unbelievable career the guy's had. Just an icon of the game. I miss him in the change rooms. I miss being next to his stinky shoes and all his stinky clothes," said Draper, who'll take on No. 10 Alex de Minaur, a 6-0, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 winner against Jordan Thompson in an all-Australian matchup. "Andy's a legend, and if I have half the career he had, then I'll be a happy man."

Everything went Pegula's way against the 18th-seeded Shnaider, a 20-year-old Russian who played one season of college tennis at NC State and won a silver medal in women's doubles at the Paris Olympics.

Pegula compiled 22 winners, hit six aces, saved 7 of 9 break points that she faced and claimed five of Shnaider's service games.

"My movement has really improved, which has really helped me stay into a lot of these points and these sets and these games and be super consistent," Pegula said. "I've been serving pretty well. Even if it's not working, I've been kind of getting myself out of service games by serving smart or serving well in big moments like today where she was returning really well."

No. 1 Sinner gets past Paul to set up a quarterfinal against Daniil Medvedev

NEW YORK (AP)—Top-seeded Jannik Sinner reached the U.S. Open quarterfinals by shaking off a slow start and coming through in the clutch at the end of tiebreakers that decided the first two sets, then pulling away to get past No. 14 Tommy Paul 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5), 6-1 on Monday night.

Two weeks removed from being cleared in a doping case stemming from two positive tests in March, Sinner moved into a showdown against 2021 champion Daniil Medvedev, the only past winner at Flushing Meadows still in the men's field.

Sinner, a 23-year-old from Italy, claimed his first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January by defeating Medvedev in five sets in the final after dropping the first two. They also met in the Wimble-

don quarterfinals in July, and Medvedev won that one.

"It's going to be a lot of running," Sinner said, "so hopefully (I'll) be ready physically."

Against Paul, Sinner was not at his best at the outset, falling behind by a double-break at 4-1 after 20 minutes at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"That's where you want to be. ... It's definitely different than any other setting," Paul said. "It's electric."

A loud crowd was backing the American, to no one's surprise.

As the match went on, plenty of chants of "U-S-A!" or "Let's go, Tommy! Let's go!" rang out. There also were several moments where spectators clapped after faults by Sinner—considered poor etiquette in tennis, that drew repeated admonishments from the chair umpire, who



Jannik Sinner, of Italy, reacts against Tommy Paul, of the United States, during a fourth round match of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Monday, Sept. 2, 2024, in New York.

pleaded for no noise between first and second serves.

Sinner finished the initial set with 15 unforced errors on the forehand side alone, but he cleaned that up quickly and closed the match with just six

the rest of the way.

"There are some ups and downs, obviously, in best-of-five. That's normal to have," Sinner said. "But finding my rhythm in the end of the match hopefully helps ... in

the next match."

Everything hinged on the tiebreakers. The first was tied 3-all, before Sinner grabbed the last four points. Paul led 5-4 in the second, but Sinner took the last three points.

That meant Sinner has now won 14 of his past 15 tiebreakers, a stretch that dates to a tournament in Halle, Germany, in June. The lone exception was one he lost against Medvedev at Wimbledon.

Sinner dropped the first set he played at the U.S. Open, but he's won the next 12.

Paul was trying to get his third career quarterfinal and first at Flushing Meadows. He also was trying to become the first American to beat a man ranked No. 1 at the U.S. Open since Andre Agassi eliminated Lleyton Hewitt in 2002.

Instead, Paul fell to 0-6 at majors against players ranked in the top 10.

Sinner improved to 32-2

with four titles on hard courts in 2024 and he's now reached at least the quarterfinals at all four Slams this year.

Earlier Monday, the No. 5-seeded Medvedev picked up a 6-0, 6-1, 6-3 victory over Nuno Borges that briefly was interrupted early in the third set when the electronic line-calling system was shut down because of a fire alarm.

The other quarterfinal on the top half of the men's bracket will be No. 10 Alex de Minaur vs. No. 25 Jack Draper. De Minaur beat Jordan Thompson 6-0, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 in an all-Australian matchup, while Draper became the first British man in the U.S. Open quarterfinals since Andy Murray in 2016 by defeating Tomas Machac 6-3, 6-1, 6-2.

The men's quarterfinals Tuesday are No. 4 Alexander Zverev vs. No. 12 Taylor Fritz, and No. 9 Grigor Dimitrov vs. No. 20 Frances Tiafoe.

Langeliers connects on walk-off homer to lift A's over Mariners



OAKLAND, Calif.

(AP)—Shea Langeliers led off the ninth inning with his second home run of the game, lifting Oakland over Seattle.

Langeliers connected on a 3-2 sweeper from Austin Voth (2-5) and kept the ball just fair inside the left-field foul pole to cheers from fans among the 12,167 in the Labor Day crowd at the Coliseum.

Tyler Fergeson (3-2) struck out the side in order in the ninth for the victory.

Oakland (60-78) matched its wins total of 2022—10 more than last year's total.

Langeliers hit a three-run homer in the fourth for Oakland, returning home from a six-game trip in which it lost three of the last four. He has a career-high 25 home runs.

GUARDIANS 4, ROYALS 2

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—

Gavin Williams pitched seven sharp innings, and the Cleveland Guardians beat the Kansas City Royals 4-2 on Monday.

Lane Thomas and Josh Naylor each hit a two-run homer for AL Central-leading Cleveland, which won for the fourth time in five games.

Williams (3-7) allowed one run and one hit in an encouraging September performance after he went 1-4 with a 6.56 ERA in five starts last month. The right-hander retired his last 16 batters.

The Guardians began the day with a 3 1/2-game lead over Minnesota and Kansas City in the division.

The Royals finished with two hits in their season-high sixth consecutive loss.

Thomas' ninth homer of the season lifted Cleveland to a 2-1 lead in the fifth. It was Thomas' first homer since he was acquired in a July 29 trade with Washington.

BREWERS 9, CARDINALS 3

MILWAUKEE

(AP)—Willy Adames tied the major league record with his 13th three-run homer of the season, going deep on his 29th birthday to lift NL Central-leading Milwaukee over St. Louis for their sixth win in seven games.

Adames homered for the fifth consecutive game, matching the Brewers record shared by Jeromy Burnitz (1997) and Eric Thames (2017). Adames' 13 three-run homers equalled Ken Griffey Jr. in 1996, and his 99 RBIs set a career-high, one more than his 2022 total.

Rookie Jackson Chourio hit a grand slam and Rhys Hoskins also homered for the Brewers (81-57), who began Labor Day with a nine-game division lead.

Adames put the Brewers ahead 3-0 in the first with his 29th home run of the season, a drive off Andre Pallante (6-7).

St. Louis, which entered five games back for the final NL wild card, dropped back to .500 at 69-69.

ORIOLES 13, WHITE SOX 3

BALTIMORE

(AP)—Gunnar Henderson tied a franchise record for shortstops with his 34th home run, and Baltimore extended Chicago's



Oakland Athletics' Shea Langeliers, center, is doused by teammates Lawrence Butler, left, and Max Schuemann, right, after hitting a winning solo home run against the Seattle Mariners in a baseball game Monday, Sept. 2, 2024, in Oakland, Calif.

losing streak to 11 with a rout.

Chicago dropped to 31-108 and lost its 20th straight game in which Chris Flexen (2-14) started, breaking a major league mark for most consecutive losses in a pitcher's starts that had been held by Milwaukee's Chris Capuano.

Cedric Mullins homered with three RBIs, and Austin Slater and Henderson each drove in three runs for Baltimore, which overcame a 2-0 deficit and began a six-game homestand by improving to 5-0 against Chicago this season.

Baltimore's leadoff batter reached in each of the first six innings for the first time since July 4, 1997, an 11-8 loss at Detroit in the second game of a doubleheader. The Orioles went 7 for 23 with runners in scoring position, had 18 hits and at 80-59 matched the Yankees for the most victories in the American League.

Coming off an 0-10 homestand, Chicago is on its third-longest skid this season after slides of 21 games from July 10 to Aug. 5 and 14 from May 22 to June 6. The White Sox would have to go 12-11 to avoid tying the post-1900 loss record set by the 1962 New York Mets, who went 40-120.

REDS 5, ASTROS 3

CINCINNATI

(AP)—Santiago Espinal's well-placed bloop single drove in two runs in the fifth inning, and Cincinnati beat Justin Verlander and Houston.

Ty France had four hits as Cincinnati stopped Houston's five-game win streak. Amed Rosario had two hits and drove in a run.

Yainer Diaz had two hits and three RBIs for the Astros in the opener of a three-game interleague series. Verlander (3-5) was charged with five runs and eight hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Houston had a chance in the ninth, but came up empty. With Jason Heyward aboard after a leadoff single, Jose Altuve struck out looking against Emilio Pagan. Justin Wilson then earned his second save when he retired Yordan Alvarez on

a liner to center.

Carson Spiers (5-5), the third of five Cincinnati pitchers, worked 2 1/3 innings for the win. He was charged with one run and three hits.

DODGERS 11, DIAMONDBACKS 6

PHOENIX (AP)—Freddie Freeman hit two homers and had five RBIs, Shohei Ohtani stole three bases and Los Angeles beat Arizona.

Teoscar Hernandez went 5 for 5 to help Los Angeles take three of four games in a crucial series between NL West rivals. The Dodgers—who have won 17 of their last 23—now have a six-game lead over the D-backs with 24 to play. Arizona and San Diego are jostling for second place.

Ohtani had two hits and two walks while showing off his speed. He stole second and third base on back-to-back pitches in the seventh inning, bringing his total for the season to a career-high 46. Freeman drove in Ohtani with a sacrifice fly, pushing the Dodgers' lead to 4-1.

The Japanese superstar is on pace for 50 stolen bases and 50 homers this season. He currently has 44 homers.

Hernandez doubled and tripled as part of his five-hit day. Will Smith had a two-run single in the seventh that made it 6-1. Mookie Betts added a two-run double in the eighth, extending the lead to 8-3.

PADRES 3, TIGERS 0

SAN DIEGO - Joe Musgrove pitched six strong innings and Fernando Tatis Jr. went 0 for 4 in his first game back since June 21 as San Diego beat Detroit.

Luis Arraez had two RBI singles for the Padres, who edged ahead of Arizona and into the NL's top wild card spot.

Tatis was activated from the 60-day injured list after being sidelined with a stress reaction in his right thighbone. The star right fielder received loud ovations during the pregame lineup announcements and when he ran out to his defensive po-

sition to start the game, gesturing to the fans along the way.

He grounded out twice, fouled out and struck out.

Tatis won both the NL Gold Glove Award and Platinum Glove Award in 2023, his first season playing right field.

TWINS 5, RAYS 4

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—

Trevor Larnach and Brooks Lee homered to help the Minnesota Twins beat the Tampa Bay Rays 5-4 on Monday night.

The Twins earned a second straight victory for the first time since they won three in a row from Aug. 15-17. They remained 3 1/2 games behind AL Central-leading Cleveland and moved a game ahead of Kansas City for the AL's second wild-card spot.

Five Minnesota relievers combined for 5 1/3 innings of one-run ball. Jorge Alcala (4-3) got four outs for the win, and Jhoan Duran handled the ninth for his 21st save in 23 chances.

Playing in front of a Labor Day crowd of 11,636, Tampa Bay lost for the fourth time in five games.

Dylan Carlson drove in two runs for the Rays, and Jonny DeLuca hit his fifth homer of the season. Zack Littell (5-9) allowed four runs and seven hits in four innings.

METS 4, RED SOX 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Luis Severino pitched seven crisp innings, Francisco Lindor sparked New York's lineup again and the surging Mets inched closer to playoff position by beating Boston.

Brandon Nimmo hit an RBI double and saved a run with a terrific catch in center field for the Mets, who have won five straight and 12 of 17 to move within a half-game of idle Atlanta for the final National League wild card.

Greeted with "MVP! MVP!" chants throughout New York's first home game following a 7-3 trip, Lindor singled twice and was plunked by a pitch. His second base

hit scored Luis Torrens to make it 4-1 in the fourth.

Lindor has reached base in a career-high 31 consecutive games and is riding a 13-game hitting streak, his longest of the season. He is batting .305 with 22 homers and 60 RBIs since moving into the lead-off spot on May 18.

At 74-64, the Mets are 10 games over .500 for the first time since the end of the 2022 season. They were 11 games under .500 on June 2.

PIRATES 5, CUBS 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Bryan Reynolds and Andrew McCutchen homered during Pittsburgh's four-run eighth inning, and they cooled off Chicago with a victory.

Chicago returned home after closing out an 8-1 trip with six consecutive victories. It was hoping to add to its push for the third NL wild card against Pittsburgh, but it blew a 3-0 lead in the opener of a three-game series.

The Pirates began the eighth with three straight hits against Jorge Lopez (2-3). Pinch-hitter Isiah Kiner-Falefa reached on a bloop single and Nick Gonzales had an infield hit before Reynolds connected for his 22nd homer, tying it at 3 with a drive to the bleachers in left-center.

After Oneil Cruz struck out swinging, McCutchen launched his 18th homer to left-center. McCutchen also extended his hitting streak to 14 games.

Jalen Beeks (7-4) got two outs for Pittsburgh, and Dennis Santana pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his third save.

YANKEES 8, RANGERS 4

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Giancarlo Stanton reached 25 homers for the 10th time in his big league career, Gerrit Cole struck out nine over six innings before his right calf cramped and New York beat Texas Rangers.

Gleyber Torres had three hits for the AL-leading Yankees, including a two-run double in the third inning that put them ahead to stay. Anthony Rizzo had a two-run double in their five-run sixth inning after Aaron Judge doubled for his MLB-best 124th RBI.

Before his last warmup pitch ahead of the seventh, Cole (6-3) lifted his right leg and tried to stretch. The Yankees ace and reigning AL Cy Young Award winner bent twice, threw the warmup, then hopped and signalled to the bench. Manager Aaron Boone and director of sports medicine Michael Shuck went to mound.

Cole, who turns 34 on Sunday, began this season on the 60-day injured list because of nerve irritation and edema in his throwing elbow during spring training. The right-hander didn't make his season debut until June 19.

Stanton homered to straightaway center leading off the eighth. He is the only active MLB player with 10 seasons of at least 25 homers.

The Yankees (80-58) remained a half-game ahead of Baltimore in the AL East. They had lost four of their previous five games.

Half Marathon age group winners announced

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Run Saipan announced its age group winners of the 3rd Annual Run Saipan Half Marathon which was held last Saturday.

The 21.1-kilometer/13.1-mile course was from the former Hyatt Regency Saipan's Club Elan parking lot to the Marpi softball field and back.

Not only were Top 3 overall in the men's and women's division awarded, but age groups of the U18, 19-39, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-65 were awarded as well.

Landen Taflinger was the lone runner in the U18 division and came in at 2:04:58.

In the men's 19-39, Jordan Ruiz was first at 1:52:10; second was Daryn Roufs with a time of 1:53:09; and third went to Aaron

Pamintuan at 1:57:04.

The women's Top 3 in the same age group were Hannoul Sky Lee at 2:18:20; Macie Plagens at 2:32:32; and Jeane Bracken who clocked in at 2:40:41.

The men's 35-39 was topped by Lucas Simmonds at 2:03:03, while the women's was topped by Christine Jones at 2:45:09.

Chad Taflinger was the lone runner in the men's 40-44 and came in at 1:54:08. In the women's division, Angela Taflinger was first at 2:13:34; second was Kathleen Tolentino at 2:23:17; and third went to Ali Nelson with a time of 2:37:30.

Jov Chavez was the lone runner in the men's 45-49 and clocked in at 2:45:13. There were no women runners in that age group.

In the men's 50-54, Matthew Furan was first at 1:59:51; second was James Abuy at 2:06:24; and third went to Raymund Tolentino with a



Participants of the 3rd Annual Run Saipan Half Marathon pose for a photo at the early morning start line in front of the former Hyatt Regency Saipan's Club Elan parking lot last Saturday.

time of 2:10:32.

Mei Hua Jin was first in the women's division at 2:37:44, while Frances Pangelinan came in second

at 3:52:15.

Dr. Ron Snyder was the lone runner in the men's 55-59 and clocked in at 2:08:47. The women's division

TEAM

From page 16

things off and secured the championships with the winning two points at the end.

He and Apatang put up 3 points each, while Duenas and John followed up with 2 points each. On the other hand, Sasamoto contributed 5 points, while Dany scored 2, and Worthly shot in 1.

In the U17 division, Team Prime's Lance Lerio, J.P. Pineda, Mikee Mercado, and Kian Helgen took down Rivals' Austin Diaz, Bruce Tasi, Philip Rucik, and Anthony Kubo.

Team Prime won, 15-7, off of their better accuracy at the net and team chemistry. Lerio led the team with 7 points, while Helgen scored 4, Pineda put up 3 points, and Mercado got 1 in.

Meanwhile, Tasi and Rucik scored 3, and Diaz put up 1.

The other teams in the U14 division were 4 Basketeers, RoBlocks, Splash City, and MadFlex. In the U17 division, the other teams were Underrated, Peskadivas, Old Spice, and BigBallers.

NMIBF's Marlene Lumabi said of the bash that while they had hoped for 12 teams in each division, they had seven teams for the U14 division, while they had eight for the U17. "It was a two-day event and the kids definitely had tons of fun! We also got

the chance to train our youth table officials and referees," she said.

The event, she said, "went great. We had a good number of kids out. Also, a lot of fans were out!"

The teams in the tourney, she said, were "very competitive. The kids can see that 3x3 is a lot of endurance, strength, and stamina, so the team with that, came out victorious."

As for what's the next 3x3 event, she said, "We would be looking at doing a girls U18 or U23."

SOFTBALL

From page 16

we came on top and won a lot every time," Sablan said.

James Sablan, of masters division champion ISAO 67 Old 2 of Nevada, said they have a lot of camaraderie as they have been playing together for a long time.

Sablan said half of the members of ISAO 67 Old 2 are members of the original team from 20 years ago.

Sablan was a member of Natibu, which was among the six teams that competed in the inaugural tournament in 2005. The masters division was in-

cluded in the tournament only last year.

Sablan, who is the chairman of this year's tournament, said it's a very successful event, and the biggest one with 35 total teams.

"So far, no major issues, a lot of good food and a big reunion of everyone from the Marianas. And I'm glad to be able to be part of it and just want to thank everybody to be part of it," he said.

Sablan is very proud of what they did as the annual tournament has grown significantly.

"It's the biggest tournament in Vegas. It's great to be part of that," he added.

John Schwarz, who is Sablan's

teammate, said to be the host of the three-day tournament and to win the masters' division and to come in second place for the men's division means a lot to them.

Jeni Isa Kisa, coach/manager of the women's division champion LMFAO, said the key to their victory was teamwork and collaboration.

"Everybody in the right spot. We never played together. We just got together. Everyone played the position, made the best, and if they felt like they were struggling, they let someone helped out," Kisa said.

LMFAO players are based in Washington, Las Vegas, Arizona, Texas, and Saipan.

Former representative Angel A. Demapan, who is the assistant manager of the women's division second-place 670 Magas Babes Familia Association, said they are the first Saipan-based female team to compete in the tournament.

Demapan said it was a very successful tournament and their team came in at second place, losing the championship game by one run.

"We're very happy with the turnout. We're very happy with the way our girls played. Traveling all the way from Saipan and just having one day of preparation, we're happy with the way they performed. I'm very proud of our team," he said.

CHAMPS

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three out of four matches to bring home the championship trophy.

MPU first faced off against Kitaue Soccer School and won, 5-2. MPU's Xavier Camacho, team captain Quido Jambor, Taiga Namai-Scoggins, and Landon Springer scored, while an own goal was made by Kitaue Soccer School.

The next match was a 5-1 final against Sawada Football Club. Camacho and Jambor scored two goals apiece, plus an own goal by Sawada Football Club.

Co-host Vivid Blue then fell to MPU, 2-0. Pudney scored a goal, while an own goal by Vivid Blue gave them the second.

Before the fourth and final match, MPU had already secured the championship trophy. They went on to

challenge Veluwe Football Shizuoka, and lost, 0-4.

MPU already had secured a 3-0-0 record prior to this loss, while Veluwe had only five points with a 1-2-0 record. "So, the result of this last [match] could not change the fact of us bringing the trophy back to Saipan," said MPU head coach Martin Jambor.

With Camacho, Jambor, Namai-Scoggins, Pudney, and Springer on the roster were Beau Bauer, Takara Hatamata, Evan Poole, Antonio Heras, Guy Pudney, Mateo Angeles, and Yutaro Kitagawa.

As for the team's performance, Jambor said he was actually impressed. "This team has gone a long way since MPU hosted the POC tournament last March on Saipan even though this is a very young team and for most of the boys, it's their very first experience traveling for such an event."

Compared to last March, Jambor said the boys played with more confidence. "They have improved their skills and understanding of the game. In all games, we dominated physically and showed a lot of aggression in one-on-one situations."

Jambor added that the strong performance in their first game set up the tone and their destiny to win the championship of the tourney. "I could see the boys had suddenly started believing that we won't take the last place as we did last March, and we could possibly make some good results here in Japan. By gaining this confidence after a strong 5-2 win vs Kitaue Soccer School, we played our second game vs. Kanaoka Sawada Football Club where we dominated the whole time and won 5-1," he said.

After securing the trophy and winning the next two matches, he made sure that their youngest players had a chance to play in the last game. Al-

though they dropped that game, Jambor said the boys fought hard until the end.

He then said, "I am really proud of this MPU team! Every player had played a very important role in this young team. Our boys played way better compared to the previous Pacific Ocean Cup which was hosted last March on Saipan. Thank you very much coach Leith [Poole] and coach Rick [Bauer] for being my left and right hand. Amazing team effort and hard work paid off!"

"Thank you parents, sponsors, and supporters for all of your support with fundraising! The dream has really come true for MPU boys! Winning the international tournament away is something which is not happening every day in your life! Our boys will remember this for their entire life without any doubt! Please celebrate on Saipan, CNMI!" ended Jambor.

was topped by Jin Zi Wen at 2:37:38. Gui Jie Sun ran into second place at 3:09:27.

And in the men's 60-65, barefoot runner Chong Nam Lee was the lone runner and rushed in at 1:57:37.

As the 3rd Annual Half Marathon wrapped up, the 4th Annual Run Saipan Half Marathon 2025 registration site is now live. Visit <https://race-roster.com/events/2025/94298/2025-run-saipan-half-marathon> to register.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. thanked their sponsors Cha Cafe, Atkins Kroll Saipan, IT&E, Aqua Resort Club, The Water Company, the Office of House Speaker Edmund Villagomez, the Office of Vice Speaker Joel Camacho, the Office of Rep. Thomas John Manglona, and the Office of Rep. Malcom Omar.

He also thanked their volunteers, race staff, partners: Northern Marianas Athletics, the Department of Public Safety, Marianas Visitors Authority, HD Weightlifting Academy, Saipan Southern High School Interact Club, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, and Interact Club. And, he thanked *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety* for the coverage.

Results of the 5K age group winners will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	80	58	.580	—
Baltimore	80	59	.576	1/2
Boston	70	68	.507	10
Tampa Bay	67	70	.489	12 1/2
Toronto	67	72	.482	13 1/2
Central Division				
Cleveland	79	59	.572	—
Minnesota	75	62	.547	3 1/2
Kansas City	75	64	.540	4 1/2
Detroit	70	69	.504	9 1/2
Chicago	31	108	.223	48 1/2
West Division				
Houston	75	63	.543	—
Seattle	69	69	.500	6
Texas	65	73	.471	10
Oakland	60	78	.435	15
Los Angeles	57	80	.416	17 1/2
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	81	56	.591	—
Atlanta	74	63	.540	7
New York	74	64	.536	7 1/2
Washington	61	76	.445	20
Miami	51	86	.372	30
Central Division				
Milwaukee	81	57	.587	—
Chicago	71	67	.514	10
St. Louis	69	69	.500	12
Cincinnati	66	73	.475	15 1/2
Pittsburgh	64	73	.467	16 1/2
West Division				
Los Angeles	83	55	.601	—
San Diego	79	61	.564	5
Arizona	77	61	.558	6
San Francisco	68	70	.493	15
Colorado	51	87	.370	32

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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quarterfinal
will be against
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MP United are Pacific Oceans Cup XIV champs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

For the first time ever, MP United Football Club has won the championships of the Pacific Ocean Cup outside of the CNMI and redeemed themselves after securing the trophy in the 14th edition last Sunday in Numazu, Japan.



MP United Football Club's U12 team including coach Martin Jambor, far right, poses with their team and CNMI flag at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport before their departure to Japan last Friday for the Pacific Ocean Cup XIV.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MP United Football Club's U12 team poses for a group photo during their practice match with Japan's Vivid Blue ahead of the Pacific Ocean Cup XIV last Saturday in Numazu, Japan.



The cup was hosted by Vivid Blue of Japan along with MPU FC, and featured five teams including the hosts and Kitaue Soccer School, Sawada FC, and Veluwe Football Shizuoka.

The tourney was for U12 boys teams with two over-aged players allowed to play in each team. They competed in a round-robin format.

Last March on Saipan, MPU hosted the 13th POC and came in last place, while Vivid Blue came out on top. This time around, MPU won

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Only Fams, ISAO 67 Old 2, LMFAO champions of Labor Day softball



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Jeric Sablan, a player/manager of Only Fams, holds the championship trophy during the awarding ceremony and banquet of the 19th Annual CNMI Labor Softball Tournament at the Sunset Park in Las Vegas, Nevada last Sunday. Only Fams went undefeated in the three-day tournament.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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CORRESPONDENT

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Only Fams defeated ISAO to clinch the championship in the men's division during the 19th Annual CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament held at the Sunset Park in Las Vegas, Nevada last Sunday.

ISAO 67 Old 2 beat Old Man By The Sea in an epic championship battle in the masters' division, while Ladies of the Marianas From All Over (LMFAO) clinched the championship title by winning over 670 Magas Babes Familia Association in a thrilling match in the women's division.

Third place winners were Bulacheros Hawaii in the men's division, Hafa Tribe from Arizona in the women's division, and Taya Gua from Arizona and Saipan in the masters' division.

No scores were provided as of press time.

Bulacheros Hawaii, Hafa Tribe, and Old Man received the Best Sportsman-ship awards.

After the championship games, the awarding ceremony and banquet followed at a pavilion in the park. Members of the Las Vegas-based Kutturan Marianas performed several cultural dances during the banquet.

Men's division champion Only Fams from Arizona went undefeated and won by a lot of runs during the three-day tournament. Twenty-seven teams competed in the men's division, five in the masters' division, and three in the women's division.

Jeric Sablan, a player/manager for Only Fams, said they did something that he believes will never be done again in the annual Labor Day Tournament.

"How we managed to do it? We just worked hard, we trust the guys in front of us, and behind us. And we know what we all can do. We're all talented group of gentlemen," Sablan said.

He said they are ready to defend their title next year.

"We went undefeated from Day 1 to Day 3, and

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Team Prospects, Team Prime are 3x3 Bash champs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Team Prospects, or LeNMI, won the U14 title, while Team Prime was victorious in the U17 division of the Northern

Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Back 2 School 3x3 Bash last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Team Prospects ousted Saipan Sonic, in a close 10-8



finale of the U14 division.

Team Prospects' D.J. Apatang, Logan Daniel, Kelvin John, and Leon

Duenas teamed up against Saipan Sonic's Enzo Sasamo-

to, Dany Defang, Ione Camacho, and Worthy Defang.

Teamwork and communication were what carried Team Prospects as they all had a piece of the basket. Daniel led

See TEAM on Page 15



NMIBF

U17 champion Team Prime poses for a group photo with their coaches Mike Mercado, second right, and Joe Diaz, far right, along with NMIBF's Marlene Lumabi, far left, during the awards ceremony of the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Back 2 School 3x3 Bash last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.



NMIBF

U14 champion Team Prospects, or LeNMI, poses for a photo with their coach Dave Apatang, far right, and NMIBF's Marlene Lumabi, far left, during the awards ceremony of the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Back 2 School 3x3 Bash last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

James Sablan, chairman of the 19th Annual CNMI Softball Tournament, hands over a championship trophy to Jeni Isa Kisa, the player/manager of LMFAO team that won in the women's division during the awarding and banquet at the Sunset Park in Las Vegas, Nevada last Sunday.